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Letter dated 25 June 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you in follow-up to my letter dated 6 June 2007 (A/61/944) in which I transmitted to you a copy of the communiqué issued on 22 May 2007 by the States parties of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR). I have the honour to transmit this communiqué to you once again (see annex). I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Eladio **Loizaga**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-40965 (E) 050707 050707

Annex to the letter dated 25 June 2007 addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations

Communiqué of the States parties of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR)

Asunción, 22 May 2007

The States parties of MERCOSUR reiterate their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, adhering strictly to international law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law. They also reaffirm the need to prevent impunity for perpetrators of terrorist acts.

With regard to the situation of Luís Posada Carriles, who is accused of terrorist acts and implicated in the downing in 1976 of an aircraft belonging to the Compañía Cubana de Aviación, which caused the death of 73 civilians, the States parties of MERCOSUR express their firm belief that the authorities of the United States of America must take steps enabling Luís Posada Carriles to be duly tried for those acts.

The States parties of MERCOSUR reaffirm the value of extradition as an essential tool in fighting terrorism and call on States which have received requests from States parties of MERCOSUR for the extradition of terrorists to process those requests in the requisite manner.

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Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Chad

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to the provisions of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) and is presented to the Security Council as the first country report on the situation of children and armed conflict in Chad. The report covers the period from January 2006 to May 2007, and details grave violations perpetrated against children in Chad, including the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups; the killing and maiming of children, especially by landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXOs); rape and other grave sexual violence, especially against girls; and the denial of humanitarian access and targeting of humanitarian personnel and assets. The report identifies both State and non-State parties responsible for such violations.

The report emphasizes the convergence of three distinct yet interrelated dimensions of conflict in Chad: (a) the outbreak of violence in the eastern part of the country between government forces and Chadian armed opposition groups, (b) intercommunal and ethnically based violence in the east, and (c) the Darfur conflict and tensions between Chad and Sudan along their common border, which has led to a proliferation of arms and cross-border banditry. These circumstances have led to a significant increase in grave child rights violations and impunity for crimes against children.

The report acknowledges the significant challenges in addressing child rights violations in Chad and urges the international community to reinforce the capacity of the Government of Chad to respond in a timely and comprehensive manner to grave violations. It urges State and non-State parties to enter into dialogue with the United Nations towards the preparation of action plans to end the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups, as well as other grave violations of children's rights. The report also calls on all the parties to the conflict to comply with international humanitarian law and ensure the safety of humanitarian workers and assets, and strongly recommends rigorous investigations and prosecutions of crimes against children to address impunity.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report, prepared pursuant to the provisions of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), covers the period from 1 January 2006 to 30 May 2007. It has been prepared on the basis of consultation with United Nations agencies and departments, as well as child protection focal points of humanitarian agencies, non-governmental organizations and national authorities. The incidents of violations cited during the reporting period serve to illustrate the nature and trend of violations against children's rights in Chad. The report identifies parties to the conflict responsible for several categories of grave violations, including the killing and maiming of children, the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups, abductions, rape and other grave sexual violence and abuse, and targeting of humanitarian personnel and denial of access for child protection purposes. The report also highlights the commitments made by the Government of Chad for the protection of children's rights and their integration into programmes and activities undertaken to strengthen protection.

II. Political, military and social developments in Chad

2. The history of Chad following independence in 1960 has been marked by instability and violence, initially between the mainly Muslim north and the predominantly Christian and animist south. Since the overthrow of former President Hissein Habré in 1990, the reign of the current President, Idriss Déby, has been characterized by internal political instability and conflict, despite an increase in the Government's resources due to rising revenue from the country's growing oil exports. The reign of the present regime has also been characterized by the concentration of power in President Déby's Zaghawa ethnic group, which constitutes a minority of less than 3 per cent of the Chadian population. This has exacerbated ethnic tension in the country. At the same time, there have been significant cleavages within the president's own Zaghawa dominated ruling party and within his immediate family circle.

3. An armed insurrection ensued in the north of Chad in 1998, partially as a response to efforts to concentrate the country's decision-making processes around the presidency, including through certain constitutional amendments. Peace agreements signed in 2002 and 2003 proved to be unsustainable. Since 2003, the conflict in neighbouring Sudan's Darfur region has spilled across the border into Chad causing a massive refugee flow and dire humanitarian crisis in the country. The conflict in Darfur has also further exacerbated internal political and ethnic tensions in Chad, including within the president's party and the army, mainly due to the fact that several of the parties to the conflict in Darfur include members of the Zaghawa ethnic group.

4. The lack of legitimacy of President Déby in the eyes of the main opposition political parties has been a significant factor in the internal political tensions. These parties and civil society groups contend that since 1996 the presidential and legislative elections have not been credible, and they are calling for immediate reform of the electoral law, updating of the voter's register and restructuring of the Independent National Electoral Commission. Furthermore, constitutional changes engineered in June 2005 to enable President Déby to run for a third term in office, from 2006 to 2011, have heightened tension and political opposition to the

president, manifesting themselves in the outbreak of violent conflict in the eastern region of Chad between government forces and Chadian armed opposition groups. This conflict is primarily a dispute over the control of State power and natural resources, particularly oil revenues. There is also intercommunal and ethnically based violence in eastern Chad, mainly between Arab and non-Arab communities, fuelled by clan disputes and competition for livelihood resources such as water and grazing land. Cross-border attacks by Janjaweed militias from the Sudan, as well as more recently constituted village-level self-defence ethnic militias, have exacerbated this dimension of the conflict. The tension between Chad and the Sudan along their common border represents a third element of the conflict in the eastern region. The challenges of establishing security and durable peace are related partially to the fact that these three aspects of the conflict in eastern Chad are at times distinct but at times closely interconnected. Although there has been a reduction in the number of clashes between the Chadian National Army (Armée nationale tchadienne) and the Chadian rebels since February 2007, tensions remain high with fears that rebels will attack in order to gain ground prior to the rainy season. The primary areas of concern are Adre and Daguessa.

5 The Darfur crisis has enabled Chadian armed opposition groups to use the Sudan as a springboard for attacks against Chadian government forces, and, in turn, Sudanese armed groups opposing the Government of the Sudan, including the Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudanese Liberation Army, have found support and harbour in eastern Chad. In general, the Darfur conflict has led to proliferation of arms and cross-border banditry, raised the level of violence in Chad, and created an enabling environment for systematic human rights violations, including grave violations against children.

6. The Chadian National Army is believed to be strengthening its presence in eastern Chad, which has, since the beginning of the armed conflict, become the main base of operations of Chadian armed opposition groups. These groups are reportedly also taking up positions in the Tibesti region near Chad's border with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Significantly, in December 2006 an agreement was reached between the Government of Chad and a faction of the United Front for Change (Front uni pour le changement), led by Mahamat Nour. Under that agreement the United Front for Change pledged to end its armed opposition, its fighters were granted amnesty, and Mahamat Nour was recently appointed Minister of Defence. There has also been a process of integration of combatants of the United Front for Change into the Chadian National Army.

7. In spite of the multiplication of meetings between presidents Déby of Chad and Bashir of the Sudan to discuss the normalization of relations between their two countries, the situation on the ground remains dire as no concrete measures have been undertaken so far to implement the numerous peace agreements and end the activities of the Chadian and Sudanese rebel groups along the Chad-Sudan border. The most recent peace deal between the two countries was reached on 2 May 2007 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, under the aegis of King Abdullah. Under the new agreement, they reaffirmed their readiness to create a joint force and to deploy observers along their common borders. In addition, the two leaders renewed their determination to end support for each other's armed rebellion and the Government of Chad has reportedly asked the Darfur rebel groups based on its territory to leave the country. Combined with instability in the Central African Republic, there are

serious concerns about the prospects of sustainable peace and security in the entire subregion.

8. On the political front, the Government has agreed to engage in discussions with the opposition parties on electoral reforms in order to reach a consensus on this long-standing and contentious issue.

Humanitarian situation

9. The dramatic deterioration of the security environment in eastern Chad since 2006 carries grave implications for the civilian population. Sudanese refugees from Darfur, who number approximately 235,000, some 44,000 refugees from the Central African Republic, as well as an estimated 150,000 internally displaced Chadians, are especially vulnerable. Most of the 12 refugee camps in eastern Chad are between 60 and 80 kilometres from the Chad-Sudan border, which has made these locations susceptible to cross-border attacks. Since March 2006, there have been consistent reports of refugee camps and internally displaced persons sites and surrounding communities being more affected by the volatile security situation and becoming prime recruiting grounds for the various armed groups, which also includes the forced recruitment by and association of children with armed elements. The militarization in eastern Chad has seriously infringed on the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and internally displaced persons sites. Due to the generalized and acute insecurity and, in particular, following the most recent attacks against the villages of Tiero and Marena in the Dar Sila department, some 20,000 Chadian refugees fled across the border into Darfur.

10. The attacks against the civilian communities, combined with considerable challenges and dangers for humanitarian actors, makes Chad an unfolding humanitarian crisis. The targeting of the assets of humanitarian personnel by parties to the conflict has become an unacceptable pattern. Although there have been some efforts made by the Chadian authorities to restore a measure of law and order in eastern Chad, for the most part the high levels of insecurity in the east have not been adequately addressed by the Chadian security apparatus. In response, there have been various initiatives led by United Nations agencies and partners, including a memorandum of understanding on the maintenance of security in and around the camps in eastern Chad agreed between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Chadian authorities.

Armed forces and groups operating in Chad

11. The armed and security forces of the Government of Chad consist of the Chadian National Army, the air force, the gendarmerie, the State security force (Direction des services de sécurité des institutions de l'Etat (formerly Republican Guard)), and the Chadian police force. It should be noted that, depending mostly on location, the gendarmerie carry out at times regular policing functions, while at other times they perform a more traditional military role of protecting the sovereign and territorial integrity of Chad.

12. The landscape of Chadian armed opposition groups is complex and shifting, making it difficult to determine their composition and leadership at any given point in time, and thus to establish specific responsibility for grave violations against children's rights. In recent years the structure of these armed elements has become increasingly fractured with the formation of a multiplicity of groupings that often

reflect personalized, clan-based military and economic agendas. These groups are generally small in size and limited in their capacity, and tend to temporarily join forces in broader alliances that are generally fluid and frequently undergo changes.

13. In 2005-2006 the two principal Chadian ethnically based armed opposition groups were the United Front for Change (Tama ethnicity, under the leadership of Mahamat Nour) and the Union of Forces for Change (Union des forces du changement). However, at the end of 2006 these two groups realigned into three principal alliances active in the east: the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (Union des forces pour la démocratie et le developpement, Goran ethnicity, under the leadership of Mahamat Nouri), the Movement of the Forces for Change (Rassemblement des forces du changement, Zaghawa ethnicity, under the leadership of Timane Erdimi), and the Chadian National Concord (Concorde nationale tchadienne, Arab ethnicity, under the leadership of Hassan Saleh Al-Djinedi).

14. There are also a number of secondary rebel groups that are a lesser threat to the Government of Chad because of their small size and relative lack of formal organization. However, they can be utilized on an ad hoc basis as clan-based proxies by larger groups to secure local gains. These groups include a faction of the United Front for Change and remnants of the Movement for Democracy and Justice (Mouvement pour la démocratie et la justice au tchad), as well as a number of other groupings.

15. In addition to the cited Chadian groups, the presence of some Sudanese armed elements[1] has also been reported in the eastern region of Chad, particularly around Bahai. This includes the Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudanese Liberation Army (G19 breakaway faction), as well as cross-border raids by Janjaweed militias.

16. A more recent phenomenon has been the formation of village-level and ethnically based self-defence militias, which are believed to draw support primarily from the Government of Chad. In some cases they are also being trained and supplied by Sudanese rebel groups. At present, these militias are generally composed of small groups of armed elements and organized on an ad hoc basis. These groups are in response to acute insecurity in the border zones and the inability of the Chadian Government to protect civilian communities. In spite of some preliminary indications, it remains difficult to determine to which degree the Chadian Government is responsible for facilitating the formation and support of these militias through training and provision of arms.

III. Grave violations of children's rights

Context of child rights violations

17. The estimated population of Chad is 9 million people, 5 million of whom are children below the age of 18 years. It should be noted also that of the quarter of a

[1] The term *toro-boro* has also been applied to Sudanese rebel groups by the Sudanese Government and civilians in Darfur. In eastern Chad the term *toro-bora* refers to both Sudanese rebel groups and Chadian self-defence militias that have received support, training or sponsorship from Sudanese rebels.

million Sudanese refugees in Chad, some 138,000 are children. In the last decade, the child rights situation has steadily deteriorated, particularly as a consequence of the internal political unrest and armed conflict, especially in the east. The spillover of the Darfur conflict has exacerbated child rights violations. In this context, there are significant concerns regarding systematic infringements of the most fundamental rights of children, including the six categories of grave violations that are the central focus of the present report. In addition to these priority areas, it is also important to highlight serious concerns on a number of other child rights violations, such as utilization of child domestic workers in urban areas, where girls around 10 years of age are exploited for housework with minimal payment. In one area in the south of the country, there are also concerns related to livestock herders who are mainly young boys. The norm is for livestock owners to reach an agreement with parents of children that are generally between 10 and 12 years of age, with the endorsement of community leaders. In addition, these children are often exposed to serious injury and maiming through harsh physical punishment, such as the burning of limbs, for losing or injuring of an animal. In general, the forms of child labour constitute full-time engagements, leaving the children with limited possibilities for education. There are also concerns related to the trafficking of children within Chad, which is often related to forced labour and sexual exploitation, as well as trafficking of Chadian children to neighbouring countries. The practice of forced and early marriage of girls, and female genital mutilation are also of concern. The practice of female genital mutilation differs greatly along ethnic and regional lines. Nationwide, it is estimated that 45 per cent of females are victims of some form of this practice.

Recruitment and use of children

18. The phenomenon of forced recruitment and association of children with armed forces and groups is widespread in the country, especially in the east where a number of Chadian armed opposition groups and militias are active.[2] According to United Nations sources, an increase in recruitment of children in the Chadian eastern region has been witnessed in 2006 and 2007. For a variety of reasons, including cultural and economic, it remains difficult to get comprehensive information on this violation. The international community is planning to increase its capacity to respond to the release of a projected 7,000 to 10,000 children used for a number of different combat and non-combat roles, such as bodyguards, drivers and military camp workers. United Nations agencies and other child protection workers have documented relatively few girls associated with fighting forces and groups.

[2] International humanitarian law and human rights law set at 15 the minimum age for recruitment and participation in hostilities. (See Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), article 77 (2); Protocol II Additional to the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II), article 4 (3) (c); and Convention on the Rights of the Child, article 38 (3)). The Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the involvement of children in armed conflict, adopted by the General Assembly on 25 May 2000, resolution 54/263, annex I, raises the age at which participation in armed conflicts is permitted from 15 to 18 years of age, and establishes a ban on compulsory recruitment below 18 years of age (articles 1 and 2). The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, in its article 8, describes conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 years into the national armed forces or using them to participate actively in hostilities as a war crime. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child prohibits the recruitment or direct participation in hostilities or internal strife of anyone under the age of 18 years.

19. It should also be noted that there is a cultural aspect to the use of children in armed forces and groups in Chad. In cultural terms, in eastern Chad and in Darfur, boys are considered adults at puberty, which they attain in the early teenage years and is often formalized by the ceremony of circumcision. Some parents and communities consider that with the attainment of manhood, a boy becomes entitled to protect the community and/or the ethnic group by joining a community defence militia or other armed group. Hence, there are no community-grounded taboos related to the association of children in their early teenage years with armed groups.

20. The recruitment of children also has an economic dimension. Rebel groups have been known to attract new members by offering financial compensation upon joining as well as a monthly salary. Children have the same entitlements as adults. With limited economic opportunities in eastern Chad, children may consider that they have no other option than to join armed groups, especially to alleviate the economic burden of families. The rarity of birth certificates and identification cards and the subsequent difficulty in determining the exact age of children adds another complicating factor.

21. Therefore, it has been a significant challenge for United Nation agencies to respond to the widespread instances of child recruitment and association of children with armed forces and groups, and to document and establish specific responsibility for recruitment and other grave violations in a climate which is additionally characterized by the sudden shifting of alliances and groupings. It should also be noted that there has been no prosecution of recruiters to date.

Chadian National Army, including the newly integrated United Front for Change

22. The Government of Chad ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in May 2002. The national law N°01/PCE/CEDNACVG/91, adopted in January 1991, stipulates that the minimum age of recruitment into the Chadian National Army is 18 years of age and that the minimum age for conscription is 20 years of age. While there is no evidence of a systematic policy of child recruitment by the Chadian National Army, the presence of children associated with the Army has been witnessed by United Nations agencies and other child protection actors.

23. In its statement at the Paris Principles and Commitments Conference held in February 2007, the Chadian delegation stated that in the midst of the conflict that the country had experienced since 1990, children had been associated with armed forces and groups. The delegation also added that there was a possibility that elements of the Chadian National Army had recruited and used children. Towards the end of 2006, the humanitarian community requested that the Government of Chad investigate the presence of children in the Chadian National Army in Abeche, Goz Beida and Iriba. In September and November 2006, the Chadian Minister of Defense visited Am-Timan, Abeche and Adre to look personally into the issue with the aim of stopping the recruitment and association of children in the Chadian National Army. The Minister ordered the military leadership not to recruit children, even in situations where children might express their intention to join the Chadian National Army. A memorandum was issued by the Minister of Defense stating that the recruitment of children below the age of 18 was prohibited and non-compliance with that directive would be sanctioned by the Chadian National Army.

24. It should be noted that the cohesion of the Chadian National Army chain of command and the level of discipline of troops is questionable and it casts into doubt the degree to which policy-level commitments and directives are translated into action by individual field commanders and their orders followed. This is of particular relevance, as United Nations sources confirm in one instance that in Goz Beida Dar Sila department, 50 children around 12 years of age were identified as being associated with the Chadian National Army.

25. In 2006 and before its integration with the Chadian National Army, the United Front for Change recruited children on a large scale. The proportion of children was estimated at more than 25 per cent of the total composition of the armed group, with a number of them believed to be below the age of 15 years. In an indicative example, in the Gourkouma training camp, 90 children were confirmed present in four of the brigades of the United Front for Change.

26. While girls associated with armed forces and groups seem to be a limited issue in Chad, there is an exceptional situation in the area of Guereda Dar Tama department, where 50 girls were allegedly associated with the United Front for Change forces.

27. It is important to note that the Chadian National Army has explicitly declined to accept children into its ranks from the United Front for Change faction, with which it signed a peace agreement in December 2006. The Government has also requested the support of the United Nations to address the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of children associated with the faction. Accordingly, the Government of Chad has begun to release children from the United Front for Change faction, with 40 of these children released in January 2007 in N'Djamena, with 339 children expected to be released in Mongo in June 2007.

Chadian armed opposition groups and Sudanese rebel movements in eastern Chad

28. In its Paris statement, the Chadian delegation presented an allegation that more than 1,000 children had been recruited by the Sudanese Liberation Army in refugee camps in the east of the country. The statement also highlighted the presence of hundreds of children within the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (Union des forces pour la democratie et le developpement). The Chadian National Army claims that a significant proportion of the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development prisoners that had been captured during combat in Abeche in November 2006 were children.

29. Massive recruitments among the refugee and internally displaced persons communities in eastern Chad by Sudanese rebels in March and April 2006 led to public actions by the international community. On 28 April 2006, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees sent me a letter highlighting the deteriorating situation of the Sudanese refugees and internally displaced persons in eastern Chad and expressing his concern regarding instances of forced recruitment. In a meeting with the President of Chad on 11 May 2006, the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator also expressed serious concern over the recruitment in and around refugee camps and internally displaced person sites and the increasing militarization of refugee camps. In his briefing to the Security Council on 19 May 2006, he stressed that the recruitment of refugees and internally displaced persons, including children, was a major concern in Chad-Sudan border areas.

30. The majority of the 12 refugee camps in eastern Chad have experienced recruitment of Sudanese children, mainly by the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement. Recruitment has been carried out forcibly, with reports of acts of torture as a coercive means, as well as by appeals to the sense of duty towards the homeland and motivations of refugees for revenge. A level of complicity among some refugee leaders, refugee schoolteachers and local Chadian authorities has been signalled.

31. In eastern Chad, there is also a new trend of creating local self-defence ethnic-based village militias to protect the community in a growing climate of insecurity. While this phenomenon is fairly new and thus not yet well documented, children have been identified in these militias, sometimes encouraged by the community leaders to join the movement.

32. With the increased militarization of eastern Chad, accompanied by a higher number of internally displaced persons, recruitment of children continues to be a pressing protection issue. For reasons highlighted earlier, it is not possible at this juncture to identify with a degree of certainty those responsible for recruitment. However, there are indications that inter-ethnic violence and the appearance of the *toro-boros* and a Chadian self-defence movement composed mainly of the Dadjo clan group has resulted in widespread child recruitment. It should be noted that two agreements, one between the Dadjos and the Justice and Equality Movement signed in September 2006 and the other between the Dadjos and the Zaghawas in November 2006, stipulated that in exchange for arms and training, the Dadjos would provide the young people to be trained. Given the cultural context, it is likely that some of the young people provided by the Dadjos are below the age of 18 years.

33. Other indicative examples during the reporting period include:

(a) In January 2007, nine refugee children, between 13 and 17 years of age, were recruited in the surrounding perimeters of the refugee camp of Djabal in Goz Beida (Dar Sila department) by the *toro boras*;

(b) In January 2007, 39 children from the refugee camp of Breidjing were recruited by Sudanese rebels;

(c) In the period December 2006-January 2007, more than 40 children associated with armed forces and groups required medical care for injuries related to combat. At least 20 of the children were estimated to be below the age of 15 years.

Sexual violence

34. Rape and other grave sexual violence and abuse remains a taboo subject in most regions of Chad. Therefore, it is difficult to obtain comprehensive information on the number of victims and survivors of sexual violence and the proportion of such incidents perpetrated by members of armed forces and groups. There are indications, however, that in many cases perpetrators come from the local community of the survivors. Most of the time, the issues of rape and sexual violence are dealt with at the community level and through local arrangements, such as financial compensation by the family of the perpetrator to that of the survivor, but with little consideration for medical and psychosocial support for the victim. Perpetrators are rarely, if ever, brought to justice for such crimes. The climate of impunity and stigmatization of girls and women who have been raped discourages victims from reporting cases to authorities.

35. Cases of sexual violence within the refugee and internally displaced person populations in the east of the country are common. Approximately 100 cases are documented every year, but humanitarian agencies estimate that many more cases remain unreported. Girls and women are especially vulnerable when they leave the immediate vicinity of internally displaced person sites.

36. During the first three months of 2007, 139 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were reported in the 12 refugee camps in the eastern region.

37. Specific indicative examples of sexual violence during the reporting period include:

(a) In October 2006, two girls, aged 9 and 14, living at the refugee camp of Treguine were raped; there is no information on the identity of the perpetrators as civilians or members of an armed group;

(b) In March 2007, a three-year-old girl was raped by a man in Gaga refugee camp. While an agreement for financial compensation of the girl's family was being negotiated, the perpetrator was released from custody and absconded to Abeche. It is believed that he paid a fee for his release to the local administrative authority;

(c) In May 2007 in N'Djamena, a 10-year-old mentally handicapped girl was raped by an unidentified man; another girl was severely beaten and gang raped by unknown assailants. These cases are under police investigation.

38. It should be noted that to date there is no documentation available of prosecutions of perpetrators of crimes of sexual violence.

Abductions

39. Abduction of children in eastern Chad is multifaceted in nature. On the one hand, there is indication that abduction occurs for the purposes of recruitment into armed groups. For example, in the Guereda area there were confirmed reports that in order to augment their forces, the United Front for Change abducted children while on their way to school or to the market, and these children are among those who were demobilized in February 2007, as highlighted above. However, current information suggests that the main type of abduction of children in eastern Chad is for reasons of forced marriage, a common practice also in Darfur. Girls as young as 12 years old are taken and forcibly married. Another practice that seems prevalent in both the east and the south of the country is the abduction of children for ransom. It should be noted that, in general, the abduction of children is not a prominent characteristic of the conflict in Chad.

40. Specific examples of abductions during the reporting period include:

(a) In August 2006, in the villages of Mankoi and Gadang (Gagal), 11 children were abducted by armed men. A ransom was paid and 10 children were returned to their community while one child was killed by the perpetrators;

(b) In March 2006, in Guereda, 150 children were reported abducted and the bodies of 30 of them were later found;

(c) Between June and December 2006, more than 80 children were reported abducted in the community of Mayo-Kebbi West, in the south of Chad, for unclear motivations.

Killing and maiming

41. The conflict and volatile situation in the eastern region of Chad, marked by increased militarization of the area and more readily available small arms and light weapons, have resulted in a far greater vulnerability of children and increased child deaths and maiming. Also of grave concern are deaths and maiming of children related specifically to the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXOs) and landmines. Demining activities in the north of the country have not been completed and as a result this area is inaccessible to the humanitarian community due to the large presence of UXOs and landmines. Eastern Chad also remains quite hazardous due to the fighting over the past several years. Chad counts among the top 10 countries in the world in terms of victims of landmines and UXOs.

42. In 2006, 142 victims of landmines and UXOs were documented, of which 62 were children (48 injured and 14 killed). In 2007, 128 victims of landmines and UXOs were documented, of which 107 were children (85 injured and 22 killed). All children were victims of UXOs, which are the result of military engagements in 2006 and 2007. The average age of child victims of landmines and UXOs in Chad is 12 years.

43. In an indicative example, in May 2007, in the internally displaced person site of Aradip, an 11-year-old child was killed and a 6- and 8-year-old were injured when a partially buried grenade exploded while they were playing. In May 2007, four children were playing with a UXO in Zaigueye when it exploded, killing two of the children and maiming the others.

Attacks on schools and hospitals

44. There is neither evidence nor documentation available on systematic attacks on schools and hospitals by the armed forces or groups.

Denial of humanitarian access and targeting of humanitarian personnel and assets

45. There are a worrying number of incidents recorded of the targeting of humanitarian personnel and assets by parties, which has seriously hampered the work of humanitarian organizations in the country.

46. The security situation on roads in the eastern part of the country has deteriorated to the point where the humanitarian transfers in convoys to the 12 refugee camps require gendarmes to escort them in order to protect them from banditry and rebel actions. As noted above, an addendum to the memorandum of understanding between UNHCR and the Government of Chad was agreed in December 2006 to increase the number of gendarmes (which currently total 325) responsible for security in and around the 12 refugee camps. However, this agreement has not yet been effectively implemented.

47. An indication of the scale of the problem is the fact that in 2006, 118 humanitarian vehicles were stolen by armed persons, with 29 thefts in the month of December 2006 alone. Other indicative examples during the reporting period include:

(a) In May 2006, a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) staff member was seriously injured by gunfire in Abeche and the vehicle was stolen by armed men;

(b) In December 2006, 40 kilometres from Abeche on the road to Goz Beida, a convoy of three vehicles from the non-governmental organization Oxfam was attacked by armed men, and approximately US$ 44,000 was stolen along with other materials;

(c) In March 2007 in Adre, a health centre managed by Médecins Sans Frontières had to cease the provision of medical services because of threats against medical staff and intimidation of civilian patients by the Chadian National Army. About 90 per cent of the patients being treated at the centre were Chadian National Army personnel injured in conflict with Chadian armed opposition groups.

Follow-up and programmatic response to violations

48. It is acknowledged that the capacity of the Government of Chad and international and local child protection actors to address a wide range of child rights violations in Chad is still limited. A critical priority of the international community is to reinforce the capacity of the Government of Chad to respond in a timely and comprehensive manner to grave child rights violations. The Government of Chad signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, and ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on child recruitment in 2002. However, the commensurate process of reform and implementation of national child protection legislation in line with these international commitments has been slow.

49. It should be noted that dialogue has been established between UNICEF and the Government of Chad leading to the signature in April 2007 of a protocol of agreement on protecting children who are victims of armed conflicts and on their sustainable reintegration into communities and families. Under this agreement, the Government of Chad and UNICEF commit to working together and with partners in ensuring protection and services for children associated with armed forces and groups within the framework of the Paris Principles signed by the Government of Chad in February 2007.

50. A strategy on prevention, release and reintegration of children associated with the armed forces and groups is currently being developed by a consortium of partners including four government ministries, five United Nations agencies, four international non-governmental organizations, two local non-governmental organizations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as an observer. An operational framework will be developed by the partners to guide the work related to the prevention of recruitment of children, the modalities of their release and transit care methodology, and to elaborate a social and economic reintegration mechanism within families and communities according to the identified needs of each child.

51. Programmes of prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence exist on a limited scale in the eastern part of Chad. In each of the 12 refugee camps, a specific standard operating procedure for the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence is being developed with the active participation of relevant humanitarian agencies, partners and local authorities and with representation of the refugee community. UNICEF works with UNHCR,

Cooperazione Internazionale in Goz Beida and the International Medical Corps in Iriba and Guereda, offering medical and psychosocial services to survivors. Christian Children's Fund also has a programme of sensitization and prevention of sexual violence.

52. In May 2007, UNHCR in Abeche organized a series of three workshops in the eastern region aimed at increasing the awareness and strengthening the capacity of the national and local administrative, judiciary, military and traditional authorities to respond effectively to the protection needs of refugees and internally displaced persons in eastern Chad. Particular reference was made to the need to prevent and respond to incidents of child recruitment.

53. Unaccompanied or separated children are particularly vulnerable to the risk of recruitment. Family tracing activities have been initiated and in November 2005 a memorandum of understanding was signed between ICRC, UNHCR and UNICEF to facilitate information-sharing on unaccompanied minors and separated children in the 12 refugee camps of eastern Chad. Identification and documentation of separated and unaccompanied children is ongoing throughout 2007.

54. Due to the militarization of eastern Chad and the increased number of reports of recruitment occurring in and around refugee camps and internally displaced person sites, as well as circulation of firearms in the camps, UNHCR and its partners have stepped up efforts to raise awareness among refugees on the imperative of maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of the camps and their protection under international law. An important factor in recruitment of young men and minors is the absence of alternatives, including secondary education and other programmes for youth. In this regard, a pilot project for secondary education has been launched in Bahai and vocational training activities are ongoing in all camps. It is a priority to strengthen these initiatives.

55. UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are conducting an awareness-raising programme on landmines and UXO education in collaboration with the National High Commission on Demining. The programme is prepared in nine different local languages. Between November 2006 and June 2007 there were sensitization campaigns for all refugee camp populations as well as surrounding communities. It is anticipated that this programme will be extended to all the camps for Central African Republic refugees in the south, as well as the major cities in the east and in N'Djamena. In addition, the programme has undertaken prevention and awareness-training in eight teacher-training schools. To date, more than 5,500 teacher trainees have benefited from this programme, with similar initiatives for teachers in 15 internally displaced person sites.

56. UNHCR, UNICEF and international non-governmental organization partners have also collaborated to establish child protection mechanisms within refugee camps and internally displaced person sites, including programmes of psychosocial support within these communities. As a programmatic response against child rights violations, UNICEF has supported international non-governmental organizations in establishing child well-being committees (29 committees have been established in Gouroukoun and 6 in Koubigou) and child-friendly spaces (4 in Gaga and Farchana, 2 in Touloum, 2 in Iridimi, 1 in Amnaback, 1 in Gouroukoun, 1 in Koubigou) through which child rights violations are reported. Furthermore, social workers are being trained in child rights violations monitoring where these structures have been put in place.

IV. Recommendations

57. I am deeply concerned by the grave violations of children's rights and international humanitarian law in Chad, including the recruitment and association of children with the Chadian government forces, Chadian armed opposition groups, Chadian self-defence militias and Sudanese rebel groups operating in Chad, in violation of applicable international law. I appeal to these armed forces and groups to immediately cease such practices and identify, release and reintegrate into their communities all children associated with their forces with the support of the United Nations and other child protection actors.

58. I welcome the recently signed Protocol of Agreement on Protecting Children Victims of Armed Conflict and their Sustainable Reintegration between the Government of Chad and UNICEF, in line with the Paris Commitments to Protect Children from Unlawful Recruitment and Use by Armed Forces and Armed Groups and Paris Principles: Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups. I urge the Government on the basis of this commitment, and with the support of the United Nations, to develop an action plan ensuring prevention of child recruitment and transparent procedures for the release and verification of children in its forces. Furthermore, I ask the Government of Chad to assume its role in coordinating the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of children associated with fighting forces through the establishment of an appropriate national institution, with the support of the international community.

59. Cognizant of the challenges in identifying Chadian armed opposition groups and leaders and the fluidity of alliances and groupings, I ask the resident coordinator and the United Nations Country Team to continue to seek to establish systematic dialogue with parties to the conflict, with the aim of preparing action plans to end recruitment and association of children with armed forces and groups as well as other grave violations of children's rights and international humanitarian law, in accordance with Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict.

60. I am also deeply concerned about the increasing militarization of eastern Chad and the grave implications for the security and safety of the civilian population, especially the most vulnerable groups such as refugees and internally displaced persons, and I urge the Government of Chad to take measures to assert security in the east, including by ceasing to mobilize and arm self-defence militias and by recovering the arms provided to these militias.

61. Furthermore, I reiterate the recommendation in my recent report on Chad and the Central African Republic (S/2007/97) that the Government of Chad engage with the international community for increased security and protection of the civilian populations in and around the refugee camps and internally displaced persons sites.

62. The widespread targeting of humanitarian personnel and assets is unacceptable, and the Government of Chad, as well as all armed groups operating in Chad, must assume full responsibility under international humanitarian law, with the support of the international community, in ensuring the safety of humanitarian workers, the inviolability of their equipment and their timely access to populations in need of humanitarian assistance.

63. I appeal to the Government of Chad to address the prevailing culture of impunity for violations against children's rights by strengthening its child protection capacity and the commitment of law enforcement and judiciary officials; criminalizing the recruitment and use of child soldiers under domestic laws and

taking measures accordingly against any individuals responsible for such practices; and rigorously investigating and prosecuting other crimes against children, such as rape, grave sexual violence, unlawful killing and abduction. Furthermore, the Government, with the support of the international community, must consider the establishment of specialized gender- and child-sensitive units in the Chadian police service and gendarmerie, and ensure systematic training in child rights and protection of serving members and all new police, gendarmes and army recruits.

64. I commend the commitment of the Government of Chad in its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, and encourage the Government to undertake, as a matter of priority and with the support of the United Nations, the required reform of national legislation for the protection of children to bring Chad in line with its international obligations.

65. I am deeply concerned about the killing and maiming of children, especially as a result of UXOs and landmines. I recognize the efforts that are being made by the United Nations and non-governmental organizations through the National High Commission on Demining and encourage the continuation and strengthening of this campaign. I urge, as a matter of priority, the institution of demining and depolluting programmes, particularly in northern and eastern Chad.

66. All relevant United Nations entities as well as international non-governmental organizations need to strengthen their efforts in support of national authorities and civil society and to expand the scope of their child protection programming, monitoring and advocacy. Those humanitarian actors who do not have an operational presence in the country must consider establishing such capacity, with an emphasis on eastern Chad.

67. I appeal to the international donor community to undertake greater and more long-term commitment of resources for the United Nations operational entities, international and national non-governmental organizations and civil society partners for critical child protection activities, including monitoring, reporting and all response mechanisms.

68. Given the regional dimension of the crisis, involving Chad, the Sudan and the Central African Republic, and the grave implications for children, the United Nations should ensure that mechanisms are in place for information exchange and cooperation between respective United Nations country teams and peacekeeping missions on child protection issues such as cross-border abductions and release and reintegration of children.

69. Recognizing that sustainable peace and development is ultimately the only way to safeguard the rights of children, I urge the Government of Chad and the Chadian armed opposition groups to enter into a comprehensive peace process and to ensure that the eventual agreement makes explicit provision for the protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of children. I reiterate my appeal to the Governments of Chad and the Sudan to muster the political will to establish durable peace, security and the rule of law in the region, beginning with implementation of the Tripoli Agreement, the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement (the N'Djamena Agreement) and the Riyadh Agreement. It is only when all parties to the conflict begin to encourage social cohesion among ethnic groups and communities that we can bring to an end the ongoing conflict that is taking a tremendous toll on the lives and well-being of children.

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Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in that country

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1233 (1999) of 6 April 1999, by which the Council requested me to keep it regularly informed on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS). In paragraph 11 of its resolution 1580 (2004), the Council also requested me to submit quarterly reports.

2. The present report focuses on developments since my last report dated 20 March 2007 (S/2007/158).

II. Political developments

3. Against a backdrop of months of rising political and social tensions, and a deteriorating economic situation, the three main political parties, the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde and Guinea (PAIGC), the Social Renewal Party (PRS) and the United Social Democratic Party (PUSD), signed on 12 March, a national political stability pact spanning over 10 years, and a parliamentary and government stability agreement to operationalize the pact in the National Assembly. According to the signatories, the objectives of the pact are to create a solid parliamentary base to ensure stability and create a Government of national consensus. According to the parliamentary and government stability agreement, the Prime Minister would be a PAIGC nominee and ministerial portfolios would be divided as follows: 40 per cent for PAIGC; 40 per cent PRS; 17 per cent for PUSD; and 3 per cent for other parties and civil society groups. The PRS and PUSD leaderships renounced membership of the Forum for the Convergence on Development, which had supported the Government of the then Prime Minister, Aristides Gomes, thus making its survival untenable and creating the political conditions for a new government.

4. The weeks following the signing of the pact were marked by political uncertainty. President Vieira refused a proposal by the signatories of the pact that he dismiss the Government of Prime Minister Gomes and appoint a Government of

national consensus to be led by a Prime Minister nominated by PAIGC. He warned of the negative impact of a change of government in the run-up to a meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau in Lisbon on 26 March. On 19 March, Parliament nonetheless passed a motion of no-confidence against the Government. On 9 April, a decree was published appointing Martinho Dafa Cabi, Third Vice-President of PAIGC, as Prime Minister. Mr. Cabi's Government, the third in the current legislative cycle (2004-2008), was sworn in on 17 April. The composition of the new Government did not reflect the provisions of the Agreement, and the appointment of non-PRS ministers to the key Finance and Interior portfolios gave rise to tensions within PRS. Subsequently, disciplinary measures were applied against PRS First Vice-President Sori Djaló, who had represented the party in negotiations over the composition of the Cabinet. PAIGC holds nine ministerial portfolios, including defence, fisheries and resources; PRS holds six portfolios; and PUSD holds three. The President's information adviser, Baciro Dabó (Independent), was appointed Interior Minister. Issufo Sanhá, who served in the previous government as Minister of Economy, was appointed Minister of Finance, an appointment that was welcomed by international financial institutions and Guinea-Bissau's major development partners.

5. In his speech at the swearing-in ceremony of the Government, Prime Minister Cabi stated that the national political stability pact and the parliamentary and government stability agreement were based on the recognition that the political leaders understood that the country would be able to overcome the various crises it faced only if the national interests were placed above personal and political party considerations. He said that the Government faced enormous and multiple political, economic and social challenges. The greatest challenge would be to find strategies to launch a profound and inclusive reconciliation process, and to create and strengthen the basis for political, parliamentary and government stability. He pledged that his Government's priorities would include discipline and transparency in fiscal management and the pursuit of a permanent and constructive dialogue with all sectors of society. The Prime Minister has stressed to all his interlocutors that since legislative elections would take place in 2008, his Government's mandate would be limited to no more than one year and that its main priorities would be to organize free, fair and transparent elections; place public finances on a sound footing; work towards implementing public administration and security sector reforms; ensure a successful cashew export season; and pay civil service salary arrears. He has also pledged to fight corruption and organized crime.

6. Government activities in the first month following its installation were focused on an assessment of the socio-economic situation and the elaboration of a public finance recovery programme known as the Minimum Public Finance Stability Programme, which was presented to representatives of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) when they visited the country in May. The Government held wide-ranging consultations with national stakeholders and international partners on the financial reform programme and other Government priorities. Parliament held its third ordinary session from 8 to 25 May. It is expected that the Government programme and budget will be submitted to Parliament in June 2007 for approval during the fourth and last session of the current 2006-2007 legislative year. Divisions persist in all parliamentary parties and no party can claim unanimous support for the national political stability pact.

7. On 4 June, the Prime Minister wrote to the Secretary-General requesting support from the United Nations for the legislative elections next year. The National Electoral Commission has initiated preparations for the polls and recently submitted a budget to the Prime Minister. The European Commission has already pledged €800,000 towards the 2008 elections and is currently studying the possibility of further support.

8. The two projects funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund have been launched. The peacebuilding project to be implemented by the International Peacebuilding Alliance and the National Institute for Studies and Research of Guinea-Bissau started its activities in April with a joint exercise on planning and training for participatory consultations. The Institute has begun setting up regional teams to conduct a national peace-mapping exercise through country-wide participatory community consultations. The second project, aimed at strengthening the capacity of Parliament, coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and jointly implemented by UNOGBIS, the Netherlands Development Organization and the National Democratic Institute of the United States, commenced its activities in April. UNOGBIS and the Netherlands Development Organization trained 15 members of Parliament and two parliamentary staff in leadership and conflict transformation skills in April and May, respectively. Within the scope of the United Nations Democracy Fund project, UNOGBIS and the Netherlands Development Organization are also organizing a conference of women parliamentarians and civil society leaders from Senegal and Guinea-Bissau to discuss cross-border conflicts.

9. The activities of the Estados Gerais dialogue initiative have been hampered by resource constraints. UNOGBIS will be assisting the initiative to organize a focus group with political and civil society actors to review the political context and identify areas where its activities could be maximized. Nine civil society organizations involved in conflict resolution, including faith-based organizations, attended a conflict transformation workshop in May. The training is the preliminary stage of a workshop for the training of trainers in conflict transformation, to be held in the last quarter of 2007.

III. Economic and social aspects

10. The socio-economic and financial situation has continued to deteriorate. Economic growth in 2006 declined to 1.8 per cent, compared to 4.5 per cent in 2005. Although the recent IMF mission to Guinea-Bissau in June noted improvement in revenues, the apparent improvement did not meet budgetary targets. Civil servants are owed four months of salary arrears. The outlook for the rest of 2007 is grim. Revenues between January and April were 15 per cent below the levels in 2006 and are projected to decline further. The financial gap increased from $10 million to $40 million. The Government will have to repay commercial loans and treasury bills taken out by the previous Government when expected budgetary support from the World Bank and other partners was not disbursed at the end of 2006 and in early 2007. Guinea-Bissau is still under sanctions imposed by the African Development Bank due to its failure to meet scheduled debt servicing payments in January 2007. Current debt servicing payments amount to $1,528,424. A further payment of $1.7 million is due on 1 July. The rehabilitation works

financed by the Bank at the Simão Mendes National Hospital have been affected as all disbursements to contractors were halted in March.

11. The Government has put in place a minimum programme to re-establish fiscal stability. Its action plan aims to adopt measures to increase revenue, reduce expenditure, improve fiscal management and strengthen controls, enhance cash flow liquidity, clear civil service arrears and resume relations with the Bretton Woods institutions. Soon after taking office, the Government centralized public accounts and put an end to compensation tax payments. Some reforms envisaged in the minimum programme, such as limiting tax concessions and restricting non-budgetary expenditure, have already been put in place. The Treasury Committee was relaunched and strengthened. Representatives from civil society, defence and security forces, veterans and donors were appointed as observers. The Government requested international assistance to fund an audit of all sources of government revenue. It will also audit domestic arrears accumulated between 2000 and 2006 and payments of some of these arrears between 2006 and 2007.

12. A multisector World Bank mission, focusing on energy, private sector development and macroeconomic issues, visited the country from 7 to 11 May. The disagreement over the Government's handling of a multisector infrastructure rehabilitation project that had led to suspension of budgetary support in December 2006 was overcome, and implementation of the project, which is crucial for tackling the urgent energy and water supply needs of the country, is expected to begin in June. The possibility of the World Bank extending budgetary support to the Government was also discussed. The World Bank mission was followed by an IMF mission from 22 May to 6 June, which reviewed economic development and discussed the possibility of emergency post-conflict assistance. It worked with the Government on a fiscal framework for the rest of 2007 aimed at improving public finances and agreed to recommend emergency post-conflict assistance for Guinea-Bissau to the IMF Executive Board in July, on the condition that the financing gap would be bridged. If approved, the assistance would run from July to December 2007 and would be renewable for periods of six months, up to a maximum of three years. IMF stressed that the involvement of donors was essential to support and follow up the measures adopted by the new Government.

13. The Government, with the support of UNDP, organized a meeting with international partners in Dakar on 7 June for a debriefing by the IMF mission and to follow up on the donor round table conference in Geneva in November 2006. IMF commended the fiscal reform measures contained in the financial reform programme. The Government used the opportunity to highlight the fact that it had re-established good working relations with the Bretton Woods institutions and to lobby the country's international partners to assist in bridging the financial gap. The African Development Bank pledged $1.7 million and France pledged €300,000.

14. The European Union and Guinea-Bissau signed a new fisheries partnership agreement in Brussels on 23 May. According to the new agreement, there will be an annual contribution of €7 million supplemented by an annual specific contribution of €500,000 to improve sanitary conditions in the fisheries sector of Guinea-Bissau and to strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance of its territorial waters. On 5 June, the European Commission and the Government signed a convention granting €6.2 million in budgetary support.

15. The cashew export season started very slowly owing to depressed demand caused by the withdrawal of important foreign buyers from the market and poor financing mechanisms to assist local buyers. The Government set a reference price of CFA 200 per kilogram (approximately $0.40 dollars) of unprocessed cashew. Buyers argue that the reference price is not competitive and would be prejudicial to them as it does not reflect international prices. Many producers, faced with low demand, imminent rains and lack of adequate storage, have been selling their produce at between CFA 50 and 75 per kilogram. This is substantially below last year's levels, when the lower range was between CFA 75 and 125 per kilogram. Only 20 per cent of the volume exported over the same period last year is in Bissau port awaiting shipment. The National Farmers' Association organized a march on 5 June to call on the Government to increase the reference price. According to the joint cashew market and food security review, conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme (WFP) in April, Government interventions in 2006 caused a collapse in producer prices and a loss by stockholders of an estimated $23 million. As cashew accounts for some 30 per cent of gross domestic product, the social and economic consequences of repeated poor performance in the cashew sector would be severely damaging to the economy of Guinea-Bissau.

16. Labour unrest has diminished since the appointment of the new Government, which has shown itself to be more open to dialogue. However, considerable hardship is being caused by unpaid salaries and rising prices. The teachers' union, Sinaprof, warned on 6 June that the end of the school year could be compromised if teachers went on strike over unpaid salaries. The health sector unions have also threatened to go on strike over salary arrears and conditions of service. According to a food security report by the Ministry of Agriculture and WFP in March, food insecurity rates exceed 50 per cent in some parts of the country. WFP supplementary feeding and food-for-work programmes will be intensified. An anti-tetanus campaign targeting 320,000 women of child-bearing age is being funded and organized by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with technical support from the World Health Organization. Parliament passed legislation on HIV/AIDS focusing on the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS. The Government has also adopted the national plan for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

IV. Military and security aspects

17. During the reporting period, progress in the sphere of security sector reforms has been minimal. The last meeting of the security sector reforms steering committee, which includes the United Nations and major donors, was held on 12 March. The new Government announced a new organizational framework for security sector reforms in May. The new interministerial committee and steering committee were sworn in on 11 June. International partners, including UNOGBIS and UNDP, are represented on the new steering committee. There are two seats for civil society groups. The technical committee was sworn in on 12 June. It includes representatives from key ministries, including defence, justice and interior. UNOGBIS and UNDP are also represented on the technical committee.

18. With regard to resources for security sector reforms, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) approved a financial package of $2 million in May for an agricultural training reinsertion project for senior military officers. The

project will be implemented by UNDP, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil is studying proposals for a Brazilian implementing agency. The protocol of cooperation signed between the Ministers of Defence of Brazil and Guinea-Bissau in Brazil on 6 June 2006 has not yet been ratified by the Government of Brazil and, therefore, the programme is not yet fully operational. At this time, only nine cadets are being trained in Brazil. A joint mission from the European Commission and the Council of Europe was in Bissau from 6 to 10 May to prepare a security sector reforms support project. The European Commission has confirmed its intention to provide €7.7 million in assistance for a demobilization and reinsertion programme. A mission led by the Minister of Defence of South Africa also visited Guinea-Bissau from 3 to 4 April to discuss proposed defence cooperation.

19. A United Nations inter-agency mission led by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, and composed of representatives from the Office, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the ECOWAS Small Arms Control Project visited Bissau from 14 to 18 May to reactivate the small arms pilot project prepared in 2005. The mission reviewed the two-year project of the national commission to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and extended it for an additional three years, from 2007 to 2010.

20. UNOGBIS military advisers have submitted training proposals to the Chief of General Staff aimed at training officers to improve their effectiveness in applying military regulations. UNOGBIS organized training in the region of Bolama on 30 March for 15 police officers, including three women, on the code of conduct and the use of force.

21. The use of Guinea-Bissau as a transit point for illegal drugs from Latin America bound for Europe remains an issue of major concern to the authorities and international partners. On 3 April, the Criminal Investigation Police intercepted a vehicle containing 635 kg of cocaine. Two military personnel and one civilian were in the vehicle. The military personnel were handed over to the military authorities, and an investigation was initiated. However, the two officers were later released. The human and material resources of law enforcement agencies are woefully inadequate to address this growing problem. In an attempt to come to grips with the problem, the Government has created an inter-ministerial commission to investigate the disappearance of 670 kg of cocaine, which was seized by the Criminal Investigation Police on 24 September 2006 and transported to the vault of the Ministry of Finance for safekeeping. As a result of that investigation, the Director-General of the Criminal Investigation Police and another senior official were dismissed. In follow-up to a UNODC mission to Bissau in early March, the Office will post a senior law enforcement specialist to Bissau to assist in the development of a country strategy to combat drug trafficking. The specialist, whose assignment will be funded by UNDP, will operate under the overall supervision of UNOGBIS.

22. Incidents of illegal immigration are also increasing. On 29 April, 66 people from eight countries in the region, including Guinea-Bissau, were detained by border guards as they tried to leave the country on board a boat bound for the Canary Islands.

23. During the reporting period, the National Mine Action Coordination Centre, supported by UNDP, focused its efforts on the threat from explosive remnants of war in and around the capital city. Contamination of highly populated areas of

Bissau has put the population at risk since the 1998-1999 military conflict, when the Brá military base in Bissau was struck by rockets and munitions storage depots were destroyed. In addition, populated areas in close proximity to the capital were heavily contaminated due to improper destruction of munitions by the military in the post-independence period. Members of the international NGO Cleared Ground Demining and explosive ordnance disposal technicians from the United States Air Force worked with the national NGO Lutamos Todos Contra as Minas and the national NGO Humaid to improve national technical capacity. Initial evaluations of insecure storage of munitions currently held by the military were conducted. Several munitions storage facilities, notably in Bissau, contain munitions in compromised condition that are improperly stored and should be destroyed. Efforts are now under way to mount a joint project between National Mine Action Coordination Centre and the armed forces to address this problem. NGO technicians trained during the capacity development phase described above will be qualified to deal with this issue. Between March and the beginning of June, 381,169 square metres were cleared and 2,025 unexploded ordnance, 4 anti-personnel mines and 2 sea mines, destroyed.

V. Human rights aspects

24. During the period under review, UNOGBIS continued to maintain contact with the authorities regarding the 12 people detained since March 2006 at the Air Force base in connection with fighting on the northern border with Senegal's Casamance region. Although the regional military court found that there was no basis for charges against them, on 30 April, the same court sentenced three military officers for treason and collaboration with the enemy. The officers have lodged appeals against the sentence to the High Military Court. The International Committee of the Red Cross has access to the detainees.

25. UNOGBIS, in partnership with the Faculty of Law of Bissau, organized seminars on 24 April and 12 June for members of Parliament on proposed amnesty and existing legislation. The seminars drew attention to the provisions of resolution 1580 (2004) on amnesty and the issues of justice and impunity. The parliamentary leaders requested two more seminars on the same subject and technical advice from the Faculty of Law. The two additional seminars were organized on 12 and 19 June.

26. Civil society organizations hope that the new Government will take action to fight increasing criminality and impunity and improve the social rights of workers. The appointment of five women ministers, including to the key foreign affairs portfolio, was welcomed by civil society groups. UNOGBIS supported the event "Days of reflection on the role of women in national reconciliation, peace consolidation and respect for women's rights", organized by the Federation of Women of Guinea-Bissau between 9 and 10 April. The event included a radio debate and seminar on access of women to power and development. Following the seminar, a contact group was created to lobby political parties to appoint more women to senior party and government positions. UNOGBIS, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Institute of Women and Children, organized a workshop on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women from 2 to 3 April. Thirty-two participants from civil society groups, Parliament and Government ministries attended the seminar, whose main objective was to disseminate the

Convention and its protocol, as well as to discuss the draft text of Guinea-Bissau's initial State report on the Convention.

27. UNOGBIS organized two workshops on reporting and interviewing skills for 24 radio and print journalists in May. The workshops also included sessions on the role of parliamentarians and the Constitution. Eight radio programmes on dialogue and reconciliation, security sector reforms, small arms and human rights were broadcast on national and community radios from 8 March to 26 April. While freedom of the press is generally respected, a journalist working for a foreign newspaper was detained in May while working on a news story on drug trafficking in the country. On 3 May, a group of journalists established an organization to monitor freedom of the press.

VI. Observations and recommendations

28. The cycles of political and governmental instability in Guinea-Bissau have impeded the pursuit of the medium- and long-term economic stabilization and development policies needed to improve the lives of the people of Guinea-Bissau. This institutional upheaval also undermines the confidence of the country's international partners. The political and government stability pact is a welcome development if it leads to a more consensual approach to politics and improves Government stability. However, the signing of the pact should constitute a commitment to inclusive politics, and not result in the creation of yet another cycle of political exclusion. I therefore urge all political actors to reinforce genuinely inclusive political, parliamentary and government stability.

29. I commend the new Government for quickly re-establishing constructive and fruitful working relations with the Bretton Woods institutions. I am pleased that differences with the World Bank have been overcome and that the important programmes that were suspended have been revived. I wish to underscore the decision of the IMF mission to recommend emergency post-conflict assistance to its Executive Board. I hope this decision will reduce the reticence of those international partners who have taken a wait-and-see attitude. The Bretton Woods institutions are emphatic that the emergency post-conflict assistance is crucial to the Government's objectives to set Guinea-Bissau's finances on a sound footing so that it may implement the medium-term poverty reduction and security sector reform strategies. Emergency post-conflict assistance is conditional on the support of the international partners, and I appeal to the international partners to give the Government that urgent injection of financial support. I also call on donors to honour the pledges made at the round table in Geneva in November 2006.

30. I am encouraged that the Government has taken the first step to win the confidence of its partners by developing the Minimum Public Finance Stability Programme, which, if implemented, will ensure good governance, transparency and accountability of public finances. It was emphasized at the recent conference in Dakar that the emergency post-conflict assistance represented a last chance for Guinea-Bissau. Recent years have seen lost opportunities and growing disillusionment among the people of Guinea-Bissau and its friends. I also call on the Government and all stakeholders to work towards political and Government stability, and the pursuit of good governance.

31. With regard to the security sector reforms process, it is important that the momentum created in 2005 and 2006 is rekindled. The Government and all stakeholders must focus on putting in place a plan of action to operationalize the security sector reforms strategy plan, so that the necessary framework legislation may be put in place. Organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, is a new and growing problem in Guinea-Bissau. It poses a major danger to the State and the fabric of the society. I encourage the authorities to fight organized crime while ensuring respect for due process in its efforts.

32. I received a letter from the Prime Minister on 4 June requesting United Nations assistance in organizing the legislative elections in 2008. I take the opportunity to assure the Government of the availability and willingness of the United Nations to assist Guinea-Bissau. The elections will be a test of the ability of the country to exercise democratic governance. They will also be a key benchmark for the exit strategy of UNOGBIS. It is important that the polls be held in a political climate conducive to peaceful elections. The role of all political actors will be essential, and I urge them to ensure that democratic competition does not undermine social peace and stability.

33. I should like to conclude by commending the staff of UNOGBIS, under the leadership of my Representative, Shola Omoregie, as well as the personnel of the entire United Nations country team, for the important work they continue to carry out in Guinea-Bissau, often under challenging circumstances.

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Letter dated 2 July 2007 from Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to transmit herewith a communiqué on the situation in Darfur adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 79th meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 22 June 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Robert **Tachie-Menson**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana
to the United Nations

07-41703 (E) 110707

Annex to the letter dated 2 July 2007 from Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the 79th meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the situation in Darfur

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 79th meeting held on 22 June 2007, adopted the following decision on the African Union – United Nations hybrid operation in Darfur and the extension of the mandate of the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS):

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union – United Nations hybrid operation in Darfur [PSC/PR/2(LXXIX)];

2. **Reiterates** its respect for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Sudan and its determination to contribute to achieving an early and lasting solution to the conflict in Darfur;

3. **Recalls** the existing agreements on the conflict in Darfur, as well as the conclusions of the high-level consultation on Darfur, held in Addis Ababa on 16 November 2006, as endorsed by the communiqué adopted at its 66th meeting held in Abuja on 30 November 2006 [PSC/PR/Comm(LXVI)] and the statement by the President of the Security Council issued on 19 December 2006 [S/PRST/2006/55], and the Communiqué by the Council of Ministers of the Government of the Sudan of 3rd December 2006, endorsing both the conclusions of the Addis Ababa high-level consultation and the Abuja decision;

4. **Welcomes** the successful outcome of the high-level African Union/United Nations technical consultations with the Government of the Sudan on the African Union – United Nations hybrid operation, held in Addis Ababa on 11 and 12 June 2007, and the acceptance by the Government of the Sudan, following the explanations and clarifications provided by the African Union and the United Nations in their presentation, of the joint proposals on the African Union – United Nations hybrid operation contained in the report of the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

5. **Commends** the constructive spirit that prevailed during the technical consultations of 11 and 12 June 2007, in particular the cooperation extended by the Government of the Sudan. Council **urges** for continued and concerted efforts by all concerned, building on this encouraging development, to promote confidence with the view to facilitating the successful conclusion of the peace process in Darfur;

6. **Authorizes** the deployment, as soon as possible and for an initial period to be determined after appropriate consultations between the African Union and the United Nations, of the African Union/United Nations hybrid operation on the basis of the proposals contained in the report of the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as explained and

clarified during the technical consultations of 11 and 12 June 2007 with the Government of the Sudan, including on the mission tasks, structure, command and control, resource requirements and funding sources, force and personnel generation, and mission support, as well as on the cooperation required from the Government of the Sudan;

7. **Decides** that the mandate of the African Union – United Nations hybrid operation, as informed by the report of the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, including the existing agreements on the conflict in Darfur and the need to support the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement of 5 May 2006 and subsequent agreements, as well as the explanations and clarifications provided by the African Union and the United Nations, shall be as follows:

(i) to contribute to the restoration of necessary security conditions for the safe provision of humanitarian assistance and facilitate full humanitarian access throughout Darfur,

(ii) to contribute to the protection of civilian populations under imminent threat of physical violence and prevent attacks against civilians, within its capability and areas of deployment, without prejudice to the responsibility of the Government of the Sudan,

(iii) to monitor, observe compliance with and verify the implementation of various ceasefire agreements signed since 2004, as well as assist with the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and any subsequent agreements,

(iv) to assist the political process in order to ensure that it is inclusive, and to support the African Union-United Nations joint mediation in its efforts to broaden and deepen commitment to the peace process,

(v) to contribute to a secure environment for economic reconstruction and development, as well as the sustainable return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their homes,

(vi) to contribute to the promotion of respect for, and protection of, human rights and fundamental freedoms in Darfur,

(vii) to assist in the promotion of the rule of law in Darfur, and

(viii) to monitor the security situation at the Sudan's borders with Chad and the Central African Republic;

8. **Requests** the United Nations Security Council to urgently authorize the deployment of the African Union – United Nations hybrid operation, to be funded through United Nations assessed contributions and managed according to the United Nations procedures, rules and regulations;

9. **Encourages** the Commission and the Secretariat of the United Nations to put in place all the required mechanisms for the smooth transition from AMIS to the African Union – United Nations hybrid operation and the early deployment of the latter;

10. **Welcomes** the appointment by the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on 8 May 2007, of Mr. Rodolphe Adada, former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Congo, as the Joint Special Representative, as well as the appointment by the Chairperson of the Commission on 23 May 2007, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, of General Martin Luther Agwai, from Nigeria, as the Force Commander for the African Union – United Nations hybrid operation;

11. **Requests** the African Union member States to contribute troops and other personnel to the African Union – United Nations hybrid operation so as to ensure that the operation has a predominantly African character, in keeping with the relevant decisions of the Peace and Security Council;

12. **Decides, in the meantime**, to extend the mandate of AMIS for an additional period not exceeding six (6) months, until 31 December 2007, in the expectation that efforts will be expedited for the early deployment of the African Union – United Nations hybrid operation and that the African Union partners will continue to provide the financial and logistical support required to enable AMIS effectively implement its mandate;

13. **Underlines** the need to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations light and heavy support packages to AMIS, in order to enhance the capability of the Mission and facilitate a smooth transition to the African Union – United Nations hybrid operation. Council **also underlines** the need for urgent support to facilitate the deployment of at least two additional battalions in accordance with the concept of operation for AMIS approved at its meeting held in New York on 20 September 2006;

14. **Urges** all the Sudanese parties to fully comply with the ceasefire and to honour their commitments as contained in the various agreements they have signed. Council **further urges** the Government of the Sudan to continue to extend the necessary cooperation for the implementation of the mandate of AMIS, as well as that of the light and heavy support packages and the African Union – United Nations hybrid operation;

15. **Reiterates** the urgent need to reenergize the political process and, in this regard, **expresses**, once again, its full support to the joint African Union-United Nations efforts, through their respective Special Envoys, Salim Ahmed Salim and Jan Eliasson, and **calls upon** the Sudanese parties to extend all the necessary cooperation to the African Union and the United Nations in this respect. Council **welcomes** the joint roadmap developed by the African Union and the United Nations, through their Special Envoys, and **encourages** all stakeholders to continue to extend the necessary cooperation to the Special Envoys within the framework of the Tripoli Consensus of 29 April 2007;

16. **Calls** for renewed efforts to alleviate the plight of the civilian population, including the provision of increased humanitarian assistance;

17. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this decision and to report regularly on the efforts made in this respect;

18. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2007/403

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 July 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 2 July 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 30 April 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

07-41709 (E) 100707

Annex

Letter dated 27 June 2007 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Secretary-General

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I attach a report on the operations of the Kosovo Force covering the period from 1 to 30 April 2007. I would appreciate your making this report available to the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jaap **de Hoop Scheffer**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 30 April 2007.

2. As at 30 April 2007, the total number of troops in theatre was 15,796, which included 2,520 troops from non-NATO countries and the temporarily deployed operational reserve battalion.

3. There was no change to the status of partner/non-NATO country contributions.

Political situation

4. Discussions in the Security Council on President Ahtisaari's plan for a Kosovo future status were held on 3 April 2007. Reactions to the plan from the Kosovo Albanian side were positive, whereas the Kosovo Serbs increasingly pressured their political actors to position themselves against the plan. In this regard, the Municipal Assembly of Leposavic adopted a text declaring the status proposal unacceptable, calling for renewed negotiations, and condemning the support of UNMIK and the Kosovo Force (KFOR).

5. The 15 members of the Security Council carried out a fact-finding mission to Belgrade and Kosovo from 26 to 28 April 2007. No incidents were reported. The Security Council delegation met with key representatives of all ethnicities. During the visit, an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 Kosovo-Serbs gathered at the Kosovo administrative boundary line to protest against the Ahtisaari plan and to demand to return to their homes. It was later assessed that many of those that had gathered at the administrative boundary line already live in Kosovo.

Security situation

6. No incidents of ethnic violence were reported in April 2007.

7. No incidents of violence or threats against KFOR were recorded in April 2007.

8. A total of 300 incidents related to unexploded ordnance (126), illegal weapons possession (71), weapons and ammunition findings (31), drugs (13), counterfeit currency (7), smuggling (9), human trafficking (1) and miscellaneous criminal incidents (42) were reported during April, compared to 304 in the previous month.

KFOR operations

9. The operational tempo of KFOR framework operations remained calm in April. KFOR forces are engaged in framework operations as well as intelligence-driven operations to ensure a safe and secure environment and to remain prepared to react to potential disturbances Kosovo wide. The German Operational Reserve Force battalion has completed its operational rehearsal level 3 and redeployed back to Germany. The Italian Operational Reserve Force battalion will conduct the next operational rehearsal starting in June 2007.

Compliance

10. There was no meeting of the Disciplinary Board in April.

Kosovo Protection Corps

11. There was no recruitment campaign for the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) in April.

12. The current active personnel establishment is 2,936. There were 201 (6.84 per cent) active ethnic minority members (174 males, 27 females): 36 Ashkalis, 4 Roma, 12 Egyptians, 15 Croats, 53 Bosniaks, 38 Turks, 1 Goran and 42 Serbs. The total numbers of ethnic minorities decreased by three members compared to the previous month. The reserve personnel establishment list includes 2,000 positions, 1,892 filled, of which the ethnic minority number is 48 (2.45 per cent), the same as last month.

13. KFOR continues to support UNMIK in training KPC on civilian and non-political aspects. The officer career course continues with 17 students, as does the officer basic course with 27 students. The basic training course, which started with 33 students, now counts only 12 students. Twenty-one of them left for various reasons, mostly health issues. English language courses continue with a total of 362 students. KPC also continues with computer course second generation and all other training as planned. Eighteen students of the third generation staff and command course graduated successfully on 27 April.

14. During the month of April there were 27 ceremonies in which 582 KPC members and 530 civilians were involved. No incidents were reported.

Conclusion

15. The overall situation in Kosovo is calm but the political uncertainty related to the future status could raise some tensions in the near term. KFOR is prepared for all contingencies and stands ready to maintain safety and security in Kosovo. The threat level against UNMIK and other international community facilities remains medium, and the threat level against KFOR remains low.

United Nations S/2007/404

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 May 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 14 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United Kingdom in April 2007 (see annex). This has been prepared under my own responsibility, following consultations with other Council members.

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Emyr **Jones Parry**
Permanent Representative

07-41920 (E) 200707

Annex to the letter dated 14 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (April 2007)

Introduction

Under the presidency of the United Kingdom in April 2007, the Security Council held 19 meetings, including one open debate, two private debates, one briefing and four meetings with troop-contributing countries. In addition, the Council held consultations of the whole on 14 occasions. The Council adopted five resolutions and five presidential statements. The United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Margaret Beckett, MP, presided over an open debate on 17 April. The United Kingdom Minister of State, Kim Howells, MP, presided over the debate on the Middle East on 25 April.

Africa

The situation in Africa

On 4 April, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, John Holmes, briefed the Council on his visit to the Central African Republic, Chad and the Sudan from 20 March to 1 April. The Council members expressed concern at the continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation and saw a pressing need for political solutions within and between those countries.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 3 April, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/9) deploring the violence which had occurred from 22 to 25 March in Kinshasa and expressing grave concern at the loss of life and at the destruction and pillaging which took place. The Council further urged all parties to respect the sanctity of human life and the principles of human rights and to pursue negotiated solutions to their differences, with respect for the constitutional framework and the law. The Council reiterated the importance of the international community's continuing support for the peace consolidation process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the need to ensure concerted action by international partners to that end. It further recognized that such support should be based on a shared commitment by the Congolese authorities and all Congolese political actors to national reconciliation and to the strengthening of democratic institutions.

On 4 April, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador William Lacy Swing, briefed the Council, in consultations of the whole, on the Secretary-General's latest report on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2007/156), including the Secretary-General's recommendations for the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the

Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). During the discussion the Council noted the recent violence in Kinshasa and its implications for stability and national reconciliation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and recalled the need for all parties to resolve their differences by dialogue instead of force and to remain committed to the political process. Consultations on 4 April were preceded by a meeting of the Security Council with the countries contributing troops to MONUC.

On 13 April, the Council adopted resolution 1751 (2007), extending the existing mandate and personnel strength of MONUC, as set out in previous resolutions, until 15 May 2007.

Liberia

On 18 April, in consultations of the whole, Ambassador Jamal Nasser al-Bader, Deputy Permanent Representative of Qatar, representing the Permanent Representative of Qatar, Nassir Abdulaziz al-Nasser, Chairperson of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia, briefed the Council on the status of the sanctions regime, on discussions in the Committee and on the latest findings of the Panel of Experts on Liberia. The Panel in its interim report concluded that Liberia had met the requirements for participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. The Committee therefore expressed support for the early lifting by the Council of measures on diamonds imposed by resolution 1521 (2003) and renewed by resolutions 1689 (2006) and 1731 (2006).

On 27 April, the Council adopted resolution 1753 (2007) on the situation in Liberia and West Africa, by which it terminated the measures on diamonds imposed by resolution 1521 (2003), encouraged the Kimberley Process to report in 90 days to the Council, through the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003), on Liberia's application to the Kimberley Process, and decided to review the termination of the measures on diamonds after consideration of the reports of the Panel of Experts and the Kimberley Process.

Sudan

On 5 April, in consultations of the whole, Ambassador Marcello Spatafora, Permanent Representative of Italy and Chairperson of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, provided his 90-day report to the Council as required under that resolution. The Ambassador reported on discussion within the Committee and on the contents of, and follow-up to, two ad hoc case reports of the Panel of Experts. He also mentioned the main findings and recommendations in the interim report of the Panel of Experts. The discussion reflected concern within the Council over the deterioration of the situation and the alleged violations of the provisions of resolution 1591 (2005). The Council members urged the parties to comply with Council resolutions and with the Darfur Peace Agreement. Some delegations called for consideration of whether further sanctions should be imposed.

On 12 April, the Council received, in consultations of the whole, a briefing from the Director of the Africa Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Dmitry Titov, on the meeting held on 9 April in Addis Ababa between the United Nations, the African Union and the Government of the Sudan. He said that the Sudan had agreed to the United Nations heavy support package for the

African Union Mission in the Sudan, except for six attack helicopters. There was a broad welcome from the Council members for this development. The Council agreed that the President should write to the Secretary-General, to express support for United Nations funding of the heavy support package, once the Council received confirmation that the Government of the Sudan had agreed to the entire package, including the helicopters. On 16 April, the President wrote to the Secretary-General in those terms, having received a letter from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan confirming his Government's agreement to the entire heavy support package.

Also on 16 April, the United Kingdom Foreign Secretary hosted an informal private discussion on the Sudan, bringing together Council members, the Secretary-General and senior United Nations representation; the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Alpha Oumar Konare, and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Said Djinnit; and the United Nations and African Union special representatives, Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim.

On 23 April, the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, Taye-Brook Zerihoun, briefed the Council, in consultations of the whole, on the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 1590 (2005) (S/2007/213), updating the Council on progress in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, respect for the ceasefire and implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS). He noted that the parties to the Agreement continued to make some, albeit limited, progress on the implementation of the Agreement. Good progress had been made on power-sharing arrangements and the ceasefire had been largely respected. A sense of mistrust, however, remained. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement had reached a delicate stage. It needed a strong commitment from the parties and support from the international community. Major issues ahead included the completion of the redeployment of forces and preparations for midterm elections, to be held in 2009. In the discussion, the Council members also called for more rapid implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, agreed that securing lasting peace in the Sudan could not be addressed piecemeal, but rather was indivisible, and stressed the importance of the 2009 elections. Consultations were preceded by a meeting of the Security Council with the countries contributing troops to UNMIS. On 30 April, the Council adopted resolution 1755 (2007), extending the UNMIS mandate until 31 October 2007.

Somalia

On 12 April, in consultations of the whole, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh, briefed the Security Council on the violence in Somalia and the deteriorating humanitarian situation there. At least 400 people had been killed in the recent fighting in Mogadishu and another 600 injured. A total of 128,000 civilians had been displaced from the city since February. A new date had yet to be scheduled for the National Reconciliation Congress. In the discussion, the Council members called for all parties to reject violence and commit themselves to dialogue, in order that the National Reconciliation Congress might convene. On 24 April, an informal private discussion was held on Somalia, at which the African Union observer and representatives of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Political Affairs briefed Council members.

On 30 April, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/13) on Somalia, expressing concern at the renewed fighting there, deploring the loss of civilian life and the humanitarian impact of the fighting, and calling upon all parties to end the hostilities and agree to a comprehensive ceasefire. The Council emphasized the need for strengthened efforts to provide humanitarian relief assistance. It reiterated its support for the political process as outlined in the Transitional Federal Charter, and called for the National Reconciliation Congress to be convened as soon as possible. The Council reiterated that full and effective deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was vital, requested the Secretary-General to consult the African Union and troop contributors on how urgently to strengthen further the capabilities of AMISOM on the ground, and requested the Secretary-General immediately to begin appropriate contingency planning for a possible United Nations mission, to be deployed if the Security Council decided to authorize such a mission.

Western Sahara

On 20 April, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Julian Harston, and the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Peter van Walsum, briefed the Council in consultations of the whole on the situation in Western Sahara, including the Secretary-General's latest report (S/2007/202) and the activities of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). The Personal Envoy highlighted the Secretary-General's recommendation in his report that the Security Council should call on the parties to enter into negotiations without preconditions, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution which would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. In the discussion, the Council members took note of plans proposed by both parties and expressed support for a call on the parties to negotiate. The Council members also welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendation that the mandate of MINURSO be extended for a period of six months, until 31 October 2007. Consultations of the whole were preceded by a meeting of the Security Council with the troop-contributing countries to MINURSO.

On 30 April, the Council adopted resolution 1754 (2007), extending the mandate of MINURSO for a period of six months, until 31 October 2007, and calling on the parties to enter into direct negotiations without preconditions under the auspices of the Secretary-General.

Asia

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 5 April, in consultations of the whole, the Secretary-General briefed the Council on his visit to the Middle East from 22 to 31 March, including his attendance at the Arab Summit in Riyadh and his meeting there with the President of the Sudan. He also introduced his latest report on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), including the proposal to dispatch an independent assessment mission to assess the monitoring of the Lebanese border. From the discussion that followed, it was clear that the Council members remained committed to the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). While important progress had been

made, there was a need for further efforts in key areas. The Council remained ready to support the parties in this regard.

On 25 April, the Security Council held a debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Kim Howells, MP, presided over the debate, in which representatives of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine, Israel, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic also participated. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, briefed the Security Council on the mostly positive evolution in the situation, but cautioned against the threat to the process from the deteriorating security situation. He welcomed recent positive developments, including the meetings between the Prime Minister of Israel, Ehud Olmert, and the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, and the reaffirmation of the Arab peace initiative by the League of Arab States and the formation of a ministerial committee by the League of Arab States to further this initiative. He called for the release of BBC journalist Alan Johnston and for both sides to take steps to calm the situation. The Council members spoke of the current momentum in the process and welcomed the Arab peace initiative. They reiterated the importance of national dialogue in Lebanon.

Lebanon

On 17 April, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/12), responding to the Secretary-General's report of 14 March 2007 (S/2007/147) on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and inter alia authorizing the despatch, in close liaison with the Government of Lebanon, of an independent mission to assess the monitoring of the border.

Timor-Leste

On 4 April, in consultations of the whole, the members of the Council agreed on a statement to the press on the presidential elections to be held on 9 April in Timor-Leste, expressing full support for elections, a significant milestone in the country's democratic process. In that statement, the Council members called upon all parties to adhere to the principles of non-violence and to democratic and legal processes to ensure that the upcoming presidential elections would have a unifying impact and contribute to bringing the people of Timor-Leste together. The members expressed appreciation for the role played by the National Commission on Elections, the Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste in the preparations for the elections. The members of the Security Council underlined the need for the international community to continue to provide support to Timor-Leste and welcomed the presence of domestic as well as international electoral observers in Timor-Leste.

Europe

Georgia

On 10 April, in a private debate, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Georgia, Jean Arnault, presented the latest report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/2007/182). He noted that while the Joint Fact-Finding Group's investigation into the military attacks of 11 March in the

upper Kodori Valley had answered a number of questions, more information was required. It was necessary to look at ways to improve international observation. The Special Representative urged both sides to work to address the situation. He noted areas of genuine progress and that proposals on confidence-building measures had been an outcome of the February meeting at Geneva: if implemented, these would provide vital momentum to the push for dialogue. He stressed the vital ongoing role of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General. The Prime Minister of Georgia, Zurab Noghaideli, also made a statement at the meeting. The meeting was preceded by a private meeting held with countries contributing troops to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG).

In subsequent discussion in consultations of the whole the Council members expressed concern at the high level of tension between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, and concluded that there was an overriding need for the parties to resume dialogue, with commitment and vigour, and to build confidence, as envisaged in relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1716 (2006). The Council members expressed concern at the humanitarian situation in the zone of conflict and at the plight of internally displaced persons and refugees. Strong support was expressed for the work of UNOMIG and the Group of Friends.

On 13 April, the Council adopted resolution 1752 (2007), extending the mandate of UNOMIG until 15 October 2007, as recommended in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General. Reaffirming the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders, the Council called on both sides to resume dialogue, making full use of all existing mechanisms, to comply fully with previous agreements regarding a ceasefire and non-use of violence and to finalize without delay agreements on the non-use of violence and on return of refugees and internally displaced persons. The Council stressed the important stabilizing role of UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force in the conflict zone. The Council further endorsed proposals for confidence-building measures and urged both parties with the assistance of UNOMIG and international partners to engage immediately in implementing those measures without conditions. The Council welcomed progress achieved by both sides towards the implementation of resolution 1716 (2006). The Council condemned the attack on 11 and 12 March 2007 on villages in the upper Kodori Valley, urged the sides to address seriously each other's legitimate security concerns, to refrain from actions which might impede the peace process and to extend the necessary cooperation to UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force.

Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)

On 3 April, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the future status process for Kosovo, President Martti Ahtisaari, briefed the Security Council during a private debate on his proposals for Kosovo's final status. The Prime Minister of Serbia, Vojislav Kostunica, made a statement. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo, Joachim Ruecker, also spoke, in part on behalf of the President of Kosovo, Fatmir Sejdiu. In consultations of the whole, President Ahtisaari took questions from members of the Council.

On 23 April, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, briefed the Council in consultations of the whole on the

implementation of resolution 1244 (1999), prior to the Council's mission, from 24 to 28 April, on the Kosovo issue, to Brussels, Belgrade, Kosovo and Vienna.

Thematic issues

Letter from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom

On 17 April, the Council held an open debate, based on a letter from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom (S/2007/186), transmitting a concept paper which set out some of the potential impacts of climate change on international peace and security.

The Secretary-General made a statement in which he reiterated the threats emanating from environmental degradation and resource scarcity, including their potential to destabilize already conflict-prone regions. He stressed that the cost of prevention would be far lower — in financial terms and in terms of human life — than the cost of conflict and its consequences. In urging a clearer focus on the benefits of early action, the Secretary-General suggested that civil society and private sector resources should be brought in, and emphasized that the Council had a role to play in working with other intergovernmental bodies to address those possible root causes of conflict. He said that the Secretariat stood ready to assist.

All of the Council members and representatives of more than 40 other Member States made statements. Many acknowledged the serious problems presented by climate change, including its security implications. Many States agreed that climate change was not just a future threat to their security, but a current one. Some feared for their future existence. Others expressed concern about the problems caused by climate change, but believed that the Security Council was an inappropriate venue for the discussion. Some suggested alternative forums where the subject should also be pursued, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Environment Programme. Some called for discussion of climate change, including its security dimensions, at special sessions or high-level segments of those bodies in the future. The United Kingdom Foreign Secretary, presiding over the meeting, noted in conclusion that the interventions had brought out the challenging complexity of the issue and the need to tackle it in different ways and in different forums.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 12 April, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/10), condemning in the strongest terms two suicide attacks that occurred in Algiers, on 11 April. The Council expressed its sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families, and to the people and the Government of Algeria. It underlined the need for those involved in acts of terrorism to be brought to justice, and urged all States, in accordance with their international obligations, to cooperate actively with the Algerian authorities in this regard.

On 13 April, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/11) condemning in the strongest terms a terrorist attack on the Council of Representatives of Iraq in Baghdad, on 12 April. The Council expressed its sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families, and to the people

and the Government of Iraq. It underlined the need for those involved in acts of terrorism to be brought to justice and urged all States, in accordance with their international obligations, to cooperate actively with the Iraqi authorities in this regard. Further, the Council supported efforts to promote national dialogue, reconciliation and broad political participation in ensuring unity, peace, security and stability in Iraq, reaffirmed its support for the Iraqi people and Government and demanded that those who use violence in an attempt to subvert the political process should cease hostilities, lay down their arms and participate in that process.

Other issues

Resolution 1718 (2006) (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

On 16 April, in consultations of the whole, Ambassador Marcello Spatafora, Permanent Representative of Italy and Chairperson of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, briefed the Council on discussions in the Committee, and presented the Committee's second 90-day report covering the period from 12 January to 11 April 2007, in accordance with paragraph 12 (g) of resolution 1718 (2006). Ambassador Spatafora gave an overview of reports received from 68 countries and one organization (European Union), concerning the implementation of the resolution. He noted that the Committee continued its consideration of draft guidelines for the conduct of its work.

United Nations A/ES-10/392–S/2007/405

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 3 July 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Over the last few days, Israel, the occupying Power, has been intensifying its military campaign against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, further proving its unwillingness to take steps towards peace and its determination to intensify the conflict.

Israeli occupying forces have continued their military attacks and illegal policy of extrajudicial executions against Palestinian civilians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. On Saturday, 30 June 2007, Israeli occupying forces killed 7 Palestinians, including a man and his son, and wounded 10 others, including 2 children, in two air strikes against Khan Yunis town in the southern Gaza Strip and Al-Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. Israeli warplanes fired two missiles at a civilian car, in which three Palestinians were travelling, on Al-Sikka Street in the east of Khan Yunis. The car was destroyed and the three persons were killed. On the same day, an Israeli warplane fired a missile at a workshop belonging to Salah Abdel Hafez Quffah in Al-Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. Quffah, his son, Iyad, and two others were killed. On 2 July 2007, Israeli occupying forces assassinated 24-year-old Mohammad Abu Al-Haija'. The Israeli Prime Minister vowed to continue his Government's illegal policy of assassinations. These actions come at the heel of the Israeli killing of 13 Palestinians on 27 June 2007, and of a continuation of the policy of the Government of Israel that has consistently undermined all peace efforts over the years and has cost the Palestinian and Israeli peoples one lost opportunity after another for peace.

It was only eight days ago that President Mahmoud Abbas extended his hand in peace at the Sharm Al-Sheikh summit. The Palestinian leadership has made its intention and plan for peace very clear and it has taken concrete steps to forward the cause of peace. Unfortunately, Israel has responded to these sincere calls for peace by shedding more Palestinian blood.

07-41560 (E) 060707

Israel, the occupying Power, has also continued its arrest campaigns of dozens of Palestinians throughout the West Bank during raids on Palestinian towns, villages and refugee camps across the West Bank, thus adding more Palestinians to the thousands of political prisoners in Israeli jails.

The occupying Power's illegal actions have not been limited to targeting Palestinians through assassinations and arrests, but also to confiscating and razing Palestinian land. Recently, Israel has razed 180 dunums of agricultural land in the East Jerusalem village of Al-Jib. This action is clearly intended to drive Palestinians out of their land and deprive them of their livelihood to make way for the expansion of the illegal settlement of "Givat Ze'ev" as well as to allow for the construction of the illegal separation wall in that area, which would further isolate Occupied East Jerusalem from its Palestinian surrounding. Building walls and constructing illegal settlements are further measures to intensify the conflict and abort all efforts aimed at achieving peace and justice.

These reprehensible occupation measures have been encouraged by the silence of the international community, especially the Security Council, towards Israel's flagrant violations of international law and international humanitarian law with regards to the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In this regard, we express our expectation that the United Nations Secretariat, as part of its responsibility, respond and condemn these Israeli illegal actions. The international community and the United Nations must take a principled and leading position in confronting such blatant Israeli aggression, which sabotages all sincere efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 287 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 29 June 2007 (A/ES-10/391-S/2007/397),constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

In follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my profound regret to inform you that since 29 June 2007 at least eight more Palestinian civilians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 4,599. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.)

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

Annex to the identical letters dated 3 July 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Saturday, 30 June 2007, to Monday, 2 July 2007)

Saturday, 30 June 2007

1. Ziyad Shakir Ghannam
2. Ra'ed Fou'ad Ghannam
3. Mohammad Al-Ra'ei
4. Salah Abdel Hafez Quffah
5. Iyad Salah Abdel Hafez Quffah
6. Sameer Ali Abu Musallam
7. Ali Ahmad Al-Aiadi

Monday, 2 July 2007

Mohammad Abu Al-Haija'

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 4,599.

United Nations A/61/963–S/2007/406

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
5 July 2007

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General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 13 and 66

The situation in the Middle East

Right of peoples to self-determination

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Note verbale dated 3 July 2007 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the United Nations Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and, with reference to its note dated 31 May 2007 and its note dated 6 January 2007, has the honour to transmit a letter concerning the health situation of Syrian citizen Becher Al-Makat, a Syrian detainee in the Al-Jalboua Israeli prison, who has been detained for 22 years because of his rejection of Israeli occupation (see annex).

It would be greatly appreciated if the present note and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13 and 66, and of the Security Council.

07-41779 (E) 120707 120707

Annex to the note verbale dated 3 July 2007 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the United Nations Secretariat

[Original: Arabic]

As both you and the international community, represented by the United Nations, know, Israel continues to occupy the Syrian Golan in violation of the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and of hundreds of resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly in that regard.

The various Israeli violations of resolutions of international legitimacy and of international law, norms and instruments, including international humanitarian law, are known to all. In the Occupied Syrian Golan, those violations extend to the citizens who have opposed the illegitimate occupation, the illegal colonization and the efforts to change the demographic nature of the Golan. Our citizens in the Golan are subject to extrajudicial imprisonment, detention and torture, which are violations of international instruments and law.

The practices of Israeli Governments in the Occupied Golan, particularly as they relate to prisoners and detainees, are blatant violations of all the Geneva Conventions and of all treaties on prisoners of war and civilian persons living under occupation. Those practices encroach on the rights of the prisoners and detainees and are a flagrant violation of all international and humanitarian norms. We hold the authorities in Israel, the occupying Power, fully responsible for the deterioration in the health of all the detainees, namely Sayṭan Nimr Al-Walī, Bishr Al-Maqat and Ṣidqi Al-Maqat. We would like to remind the United Nations of its role and its legal and humanitarian responsibility to protect our detained Syrian prisoners, especially since the health of the prisoner Bishr Al-Maqat — who recently suffered a heart attack and, consequently, was taken to Al-'Afūlah Hospital where he underwent arterial catheterization — has begun to deteriorate after more than 22 years of detention in the prisons of the Israeli occupation. The Israeli Prisons Authority has deliberately impeded the work of representatives of the Red Cross when they visit those prisoners and detainees. This obliges the United Nations to intervene in order to make Israel fulfil its international commitments in that regard.

My country's delegation calls on you and, through you, the United Nations and its competent bodies to pressure Israel to allow immediately representatives of the Red Cross, accompanied by specialized doctors to provide the required treatment, to visit the prisoner Bishr Al-Maqat and his fellow prisoners in preparation for their immediate release. They have been incarcerated in Israeli jails for approximately 22 years (see annexed list of detainees) and are in extremely poor health. In that regard, we would like to remind you of the similarly inhumane detainment which led to the death of the Syrian prisoner Hayil Abu Zayd just one month after his release from prison in 2005. His release had been secured at that time thanks to the efforts of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

My country's delegation requests that this letter be circulated as an official document of the United Nations and that it be distributed to the President of the General Assembly and the President and members of the Security Council. It should be noted that we brought up the issue of Sayṭan Al-Walī and the other Syrian detainees from the Occupied Syrian Golan with Michael C. Williams, your Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process, during a meeting that took place on

19 January 2007. We also brought to your attention the wretched condition of the Syrian detainees from the Occupied Syrian Golan in Israeli prisons in our letter of 16 January 2006 and in our letter A/61/935-S/2007/325, as well as to the attention of your High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva two years ago.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Annexed list of detainees

Name of prisoner	*Date of imprisonment*	*Sentence*
Bishr Sulayman Ahmad Al-Maqat	1985	27 years
Sidqī Sulayman Ahmad Al-Maqat	1985	27 years
Sayṭan Nimr Al-Walī	1985	27 years
ʻĀṣim Mahmūd Al-Walī	1985	27 years
Wi'ām Mahmūd Ammashah	1999	20 years
Shām Kamāl Shams	2003	13 years
Kamīl Sulayman Khāṭir	2001	8 years
Jūlan Samīh Abu Khayr	2006	9 years
Nadīm Farīd Al-Qadmanī	2006	9 years
Lu'ay Bihjat Mar'ī	2006	9 years
Samīh Samārah	2001	6 years
Muhammad Abdu As-Shamāly	2003	7 years
Hatim Muhammad Al-Khaṭīb	2003	4 years
Husayn Al-Khaṭīb	2003	4 years
Mahmūd Sha'bān Al-Khaṭīb	2006	detained

United Nations A/61/963*-S/2007/406*

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
17 July 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 13 and 66

Security Council
Sixty-second year

The situation in the Middle East

Right of peoples to self-determination

Note verbale dated 3 July 2007 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

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It would be greatly appreciated if the present note and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13 and 66, and of the Security Council.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

07-41779* (E) 190707

Annex to the note verbale dated 3 July 2007 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

As both you and the international community, represented by the United Nations, know, Israel continues to occupy the Syrian Golan, in violation of the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and of hundreds of resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly in that regard.

The various Israeli violations of resolutions of international legitimacy and of international law, norms and instruments, including international humanitarian law, are known to all. In the occupied Syrian Golan, those violations extend to the citizens who have opposed the illegitimate occupation, the illegal colonization and the efforts to change the demographic nature of the Golan. Our citizens in the Golan are subject to extrajudicial imprisonment, detention and torture, which are violations of international instruments and law.

The practices of Israeli Governments in the occupied Golan, particularly as they relate to prisoners and detainees, are blatant violations of all the Geneva Conventions and of all treaties on prisoners of war and civilian persons living under occupation. Those practices encroach on the rights of the prisoners and detainees and are a flagrant violation of all international and humanitarian norms. We hold the authorities in Israel, the occupying Power, fully responsible for the deterioration in the health of all the detainees, namely Sayṭan Nimr al-Walī, Bishr al-Maqat and Ṣidqi al-Maqat. We would like to remind the United Nations of its role and its legal and humanitarian responsibility to protect our detained Syrian prisoners, especially since the health of the prisoner Bishr al-Maqat — who recently suffered a heart attack and, consequently, was taken to Al-'Afūlah Hospital, where he underwent arterial catheterization — has begun to deteriorate after more than 22 years of detention in the prisons of the Israeli occupation. The Israeli Prisons Authority has deliberately impeded the work of representatives of the Red Cross when they visit those prisoners and detainees. This obliges the United Nations to intervene in order to make Israel fulfil its international commitments in that regard.

My country's delegation calls on you and, through you, the United Nations and its competent bodies to pressure Israel to allow immediately representatives of the Red Cross, accompanied by specialized doctors to provide the required treatment, to visit prisoner Bishr al-Maqat and his fellow prisoners in preparation for their immediate release. They have been incarcerated in Israeli jails for approximately 22 years (see annexed list of detainees) and are in extremely poor health. In that regard, we would like to remind you of the similarly inhumane detainment that led to the death of Syrian prisoner Hayil Abu Zayd just one month after his release from prison in 2005. His release had been secured at that time thanks to the efforts of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

My country's delegation requests that this letter be circulated as an official document of the United Nations and distributed to the President of the General Assembly and the President and members of the Security Council. It should be noted that we brought up the issue of Sayṭan al-Walī and the other Syrian detainees from the occupied Syrian Golan with Michael C. Williams, your Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process, during a meeting that took place on

19 January 2007. We also brought to your attention the wretched condition of the Syrian detainees from the occupied Syrian Golan in Israeli prisons in our letter of 16 January 2006 and in our letter contained in document A/61/935-S/2007/325, as well as to the attention of your High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva two years ago.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Annexed list of detainees

Name of prisoner	*Date of imprisonment*	*Sentence*
Bishr Sulayman Ahmad al-Maqat	1985	27 years
Sidqī Sulayman Ahmad al-Maqat	1985	27 years
Sayṭan Nimr al-Walī	1985	27 years
ʻĀṣim Mahmūd al-Walī	1985	27 years
Wi'ām Mahmūd Ammashah	1999	20 years
Shām Kamāl Shams	2003	13 years
Kamīl Sulayman Khāṭir	2001	8 years
Jūlan Samīh Abu Khayr	2006	9 years
Nadīm Farīd al-Qadmanī	2006	9 years
Lu'ay Bihjat Mar'ī	2006	9 years
Samīh Samārah	2001	6 years
Muhammad Abdu as-Shamāly	2003	7 years
Hatim Muhammad al-Khaṭīb	2003	4 years
Husayn al-Khaṭīb	2003	4 years
Mahmūd Sha'bān al-Khaṭīb	2006	detained

United Nations S/2007/407

Security Council

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5 July 2007
English
Original: French

Letter dated 5 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey to you, as an annex to this letter, the plan to promote security in North and South Kivu proposed by The Honourable Vital Kamerhe, President of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This plan was given to the members of the United Nations Security Council mission that visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 19 and 20 June 2007.

My Government takes this opportunity to reaffirm its full support for a primarily political and diplomatic solution to the deplorable situation which continues to exist in the eastern part of the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government requests you to circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ileka **Atoki**
Ambassador

07-41643 (E) 090707 110707

Annex to the letter dated 5 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Plan to promote security in North and South Kivu which The Honourable Vital Kamerhe, President of the National Assembly, proposed to the members of the United Nations Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Problem

North and South Kivu are experiencing growing insecurity owing to the presence of the ex-FAR and Interahamwe, who kill, steal and rape.

In particular, there are elements of Laurent Nkunda's forces in North Kivu, while the so-called group of 47, composed of troops from the former branch of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie who refused integration, is present in South Kivu.

To put an end to this situation, we have devised a plan with five parts:

1. Humanitarian and human rights

Reactivation of the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement process

Establish transit camps to receive the ex-FAR and Interahamwe so that they can be repatriated to their country of origin; the camps would be protected by the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), the inmates would be disarmed and their families would be placed in the charge of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Repatriation to Rwanda taking into account existing facilities there.

Establish an international committee to monitor the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement process. It was the heavy involvement of the international community in the form of Operation Artemis that finally enabled the Ituri to rediscover the road to peace.

Take all appropriate measures for the protection of the civilian populations against the violent acts and massive human rights violations of armed groups, militias and elements of the armed forces.

Expedite the reform of the judicial system and guarantee the independence of the judiciary in order to put an end to impunity.

Assist affected populations and displaced persons in North and South Kivu.

2. Military

The elements that refuse to enter the transit camps will be subjected to armed pursuit. For this purpose, it will be necessary to prepare élite Congolese elements that benefit from logistics and information provided by the international community, especially the European Union, and support from the Southern African Development Community.

There will, of course, have to be major reforms within the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular the dismantling of the network responsible for misappropriating soldiers' pay; this will mean separating the military chain of command from the mechanism in charge of payroll and the management of daily expenses.

The presence of MONUC in the east will also have to be strengthened through an additional one-year mandate after evaluation of the progress made. MONUC must be given missions that are clear-cut, as in Ituri previously.

3. Economic

Since the ex-FAR and Interahamwe are able to resupply by selling cassiterite, coltan and gold, suspension of the mining of these ores is called for. Economic operators from this and adjacent countries are responsible for selling the ores on the international market. The Congolese economic operators must be made aware of their duty to their native regions.

4. Political

Meeting: the President of the Republic, the President of the National Assembly, the President of the Senate, the Prime Minister and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo must meet to settle on one of two options: political-diplomatic or military. I prefer the first, the political-diplomatic option.

The key sectors and the leaders of North and South Kivu must meet within the framework of a provincial conference to discuss the peace, security and development of their provinces, with a view to their involvement in the search for a lasting solution to the crisis in the east.

The participants must not be allowed to engage in rhetoric that would exacerbate the crisis.

They must, on this occasion, find a way of communicating that avoids portraying all Hutus and all Tutsis as in collusion with the armed groups. This tactic has a double advantage: isolating the outlaws and reassuring the Hutus and Tutsis who want to live in peace with the other communities.

Prevail on Rwanda and on all who have influence over Laurent Nkunda to persuade him to agree to live in exile, followed by the integration of his soldiers in the national army, where they will be entitled to be assigned grades and functions on a par with their colleagues.

Also secure the integration in the national army of the elements of the group of 47 in South Kivu; we realize that, at this level, war is not an appropriate solution, unless we are forced into it.

5. Diplomatic

Make some preliminary overtures towards re-establishing diplomatic relations with Rwanda, which will lead to the opening of our respective Embassies. Initially, a Chargé d'affaires will be appointed, followed by an Ambassador.

The advantage of this appointment will be to have someone to relay our messages to the Government of Rwanda and to work for the improvement of our bilateral relations. In this way, we can expect the misunderstandings that arise because of the absence of communication to be quickly dissipated.

However, opening an embassy in Rwanda while Laurent Nkunda continues to sow desolation and death among the population would be taken amiss by national opinion.

This explains the necessity of involving Rwanda in the search for solutions to the crisis in North and South Kivu.

Consider the possibility of the resumption of activities by the Community of Great Lakes Countries, expanded to include other countries in the Great Lakes region, such as Uganda, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Lifting of the embargo on the purchase of arms decreed and maintained against the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Obtain from the international community funds for the Stability, Security and Development Pact in the Great Lakes region.

Secure financing for a plan to restore the environment in the east, which was destroyed, first, by the massive flow of Rwandan refugees and, second, by warfare.

Done at Kinshasa, on 20 June 2007
Vital **Kamerhe**

United Nations A/61/989–S/2007/408

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Security Council

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6 July 2007
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 13
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 5 July 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations ddressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 22 to 30 June 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-41739 (E) 090707 090707

Annex to the identical letters dated 5 July 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israeli violations, acts of aggression and activities from 22 to 30 June 2007, inclusive

Air violations

- On 24 June 2007, between 1030 hours and 1108 hours, four enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh heading north, circled over the regions of the South and the Shuf, then left over 'Aytarun.

- On 25 June 2007, between 1430 hours and 1445 hours, enemy Israeli warplanes overflew the area of Bint Jubayl.

- On 26 June 2007, between 1220 hours and 1235 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Tripoli, circled over the Baalbek area, then left over the sea off Shikka.

On 27 June 2007:

- Between 1015 hours and 1325 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah, circled over the regions of the South, then left over Bint Jubayl.

- Between 1814 hours and 2230 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over 'Aytarun heading north, circled over the regions of the South, then left over Alma al-Sha'b.

On 28 June 2007:

- Between 1104 hours and 1517 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah, circled over the regions of the South, then left over Alma al-Sha'b.

- Between 1319 hours and 1340 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b, circled between Shikka and the South, then left over the sea off Shikka.

- Between 1405 hours and 1415 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Jounieh heading south, then left over Alma al-Sha'b.

- Between 1423 hours and 1500 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah, circled over the regions of Beirut, al-Hirmil and Shikka, then left over Alma al-Sha'b.

- Between 1512 hours and 1906 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Tyre, circled over the regions of Beirut and the South, then left over Alma al-Sha'b.

- Between 1516 hours and 1900 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Bint Jubayl, circled over the South, then left over Alma al-Sha'b.

Sea violations

None.

On 23 June 2007, a letter was received from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) indicating that on 20 June 2007, between 0840 and 0850 hours, there was only one Israeli enemy launch present, not three. The launch in question was south of the line of buoys.

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 13
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 5 July 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical table of Israeli violations during the month of June 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-41747 (E) 090707 090707

Annex to the identical letters dated 5 July 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statistical table showing the number of Israeli violations during June 2007

Air violations				Sea violations	Land violations				Total violations	Total violations in previous month
					Military acts of aggression	Field violations	Breaches	Total		
Military jet	Reconnaissance	Helicopter	Total	Crossing of territorial waters, artillery fire and shooting of flares and fire-bombs over territorial waters	Air raids, artillery shelling, shelling of military positions and important centres, attacks on and killing of civilians	Gunfire, shooting of flares, dropping of artillery missiles, infiltration and crossing of international borders	Threats and displaying of weapons, bulldozing of soil, placing of barbed wire and setting up of installations inside Lebanese territory			
25	28	--	53	--	--	11	3	14	67	73

United Nations A/61/991–S/2007/410

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 17 and 27

Security Council
Sixty-second year

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Letter dated 5 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to my previous letter, dated 28 June 2007, I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding the forthcoming "presidential elections" to be held on 19 July 2007 in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were urgently distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 27, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-41753 (E) 090707

Annex to the letter dated 5 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Baky, 5 July 2007

According to reports circulated by the mass media outlets of the Republic of Armenia so-called "presidential elections" are being arranged to take place in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 19 July 2007.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan reiterates in this regard that the unrecognized separatist regime in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan represents nothing but an illegal structure established by Armenia on the basis of ethnic cleansing of the Azerbaijani population. The so-called "elections" are conducted in order to camouflage the annexation policy of Armenia and are aimed at consolidation of the results of the continued occupation of the Azerbaijani territories.

Conduct of such "elections" gravely violates the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the norms and principles of international law, since they are held in the absence of the original Azerbaijani population of the Nagorno-Karabakh region, and, therefore, shall have no legal effect whatsoever.

Any kind of elections in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan may be recognized as fair and free once the expelled Azerbaijani population takes full, direct and equal part in their conduct in a lawful and democratic environment equally to the Armenian population of the region. Holding such elections will be possible after the withdrawal of the Armenian occupying forces, normalization of life in the region, creation of necessary conditions for restoration of the dialogue and cooperation between the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities of Nagorno-Karabakh. These steps will open up the possibility for the elaboration of an autonomy model for the Nagorno-Karabakh population within Azerbaijan.

The Republic of Azerbaijan calls upon the Armenian side to stop its destructive practice of illegal steps, which does not have any prospects, and instead to demonstrate goodwill and take a constructive position in the negotiation process in order to find, as soon as possible, a durable solution to the conflict on the basis of the norms and principles of international law.

United Nations A/ES-10/393–S/2007/411

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Security Council

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6 July 2007

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 5 July 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am compelled, for the third time in a week, to once again draw your attention to the continuing military attacks being carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip, and the consequent rise in the toll of death and destruction being endured by the Palestinian people.

The short- and long-term ramifications of such illegal and violent actions by the occupying Power are many and serious for such actions, among other things, assure the further inflammation of tensions, the perpetuation and escalation of the cycle of violence and the continued deterioration of the humanitarian situation. This in turn undermines any efforts being made towards calming the situation on the ground and towards the resumption of peace negotiations. The international community cannot continue to sit idly by while Israel continues to commit such crimes against the defenceless civilian population under its occupation and continues to sabotage peace efforts, including the serious efforts being exerted by the Palestinian Authority at the current time.

Today, the Israeli occupying forces launched yet another military assault on the Gaza Strip, particularly in the area near Al-Bureij refugee camp, by both ground and air. Using fighter planes, tanks and bulldozers, the occupying forces pushed about one kilometre into that part of the central Gaza Strip, seizing positions on rooftops and firing artillery and missiles at Palestinians in the area. A total of at least 11 Palestinians were killed today by the Israeli occupying forces in these attacks and at least another 26 Palestinians were wounded. Among those critically wounded was a cameraman for a Palestinian television station, Imad Ghanem, who was repeatedly shot at by the Israeli occupying forces while he was trying to film the attacks. The occupying forces also harassed, detained and assaulted several paramedics who were attempting to aid those Palestinians wounded by Israeli fire in the area. In addition, the occupying forces arrested at least 18 more Palestinians

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during this assault on the Gaza Strip, contributing to the daily rise in the number of Palestinian prisoners being illegally held by Israel.

In another incident indicative of the occupying Power's complete lack of respect for Palestinian human life, the Israeli occupying forces committed yet another crime against a Palestinian child. On Tuesday, 3 July 2007, in the city of Al-Khalil in the West Bank, Israeli occupying forces fired at and killed Ahmad Al-Skafi, age 15, while he was playing with his friends in the neighbourhood. Following the shooting of the boy, the Israeli soldiers then prevented paramedics from reaching his body and unleashed their guard dogs at him, which tore off his arm and caused him additional trauma and suffering as he lay dying in the street.

We implore the international community, including in particular the United Nations Security Council, to end its silence and to give due attention to this critical situation. Urgent measures must be considered to bring a halt to the military onslaught that continues to be carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Such crimes committed by the occupying Power must be unequivocally condemned by all who respect and uphold international law and human rights, and serious efforts must be undertaken in this regard to uphold international law. In particular, it is imperative to reiterate that the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War have a legal obligation to respect and to ensure respect of the Convention in all circumstances. This must necessarily include the prevention of such war crimes against the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation, who must not be excluded from the protection accorded to civilian persons under international law.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 288 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 3 July 2007 (A/ES-10/392-S/2007/405), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

In follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my profound regret to inform you that, since my last letter to you two days ago, at least 12 more Palestinian civilians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 4,611 people. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.)

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

Annex to the identical letters dated 5 July 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (From Tuesday, 3 July 2007, to Thursday, 5 July 2007)

Tuesday, 3 July 2007

1. Ahmad Abdel Mohsen Al-Skafi (15)

Thursday, 5 July 2007

2. Mohammad Jawad Siyam
3. Ahmad Suleiman Al-Qrainawi
4. Mohammad Nayef Al-Qwaidat
5. Ahmad Abu Jild
6. Mohammad Abu Arqoud
7. Mahmoud Nour
8. Mohammad Mostafa Mansour
9. Obaida Hijazi Al-Qassas
10. Ahmad Abu Najei' (18)
11. Mohammad Nofal
12. Ammar Shaheen

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 4,611.